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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

"VENGEANCE!"
CRIES THE ROBOT-MASTER!





ON THE FRIGHTENED MAN'S NECK, A TINY IMPLANTED TELEVISION CAMERA FLICKERS AND PULSES.



AND THEN, IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO DIAL A CALL, THE FRIGHTENED GENTLEMAN... DIES!

TINY ELECTRONIC BORERS EMERGE FROM THE DEAD MAN'S EAR...

STAN LEE PRESENTS **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A ROBOT SCORNE!

QUEENS, NEW YORK.
IN A WINDSWEEP
CEMETERY, AN
ANNIVERSARY VIGIL
IS HELD...

PETER, THERE
ARE TIMES WHEN
I MISS YOUR
UNCLE BEN SO
MUCH--TIMES
LIKE THESE.

I KNOW,
AUNT
MAY.

BEN
PARKER

BELOVED HUSBAND
OF MAY PARKER
MAY HE REST IN
PEACE

DR. BERTRAM
WITHERBIE
1891-1920

LOST IN A
FIRE

A SHORT
DISTANCE
AWAY, NATHAN
LUBINSKI
MAINTAINS A
RESPECTFUL
SILENCE, AND
DISTANCE.

BILL
MANTLO
SCRIPTER

LUKE
MCDONNELL
LAYOUTS

JIM
MOONEY
FINISHER

DIANA
ALBERS
LETTERER

BOB
SHAREN
COLORIST

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR

JIM
SHOOTER
BOSS

ACROSS THE WIDE GULF OF GENERATIONS, THIS YOUNG MAN AND HIS AGED AUNT ARE BOUND BY TIES OF MUTUAL LOVE, OF MUTUAL GRIEF...

BEN WAS ALWAYS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH, PETER.

I REMEMBER OUR WEDDING DAY...

NOW, THEY'RE BOTH GONE.

I WAS ONLY A BABY WHEN MY MOTHER AND FATHER DIED. YOU AND UNCLE BEN TOOK ME IN...

"AND RAISED ME LIKE THE SON YOU'D NEVER HAD."

HAVE SOME MORE WHEAT-CAKES, PETEY!

DON'T FATTEN HIM UP TOO MUCH, MAY DEAR.

PETER'S MIND CONTINUES TO DRIFT, AND HE RECALLS A MOST FATEFUL DAY--A DAY WHEN HE WAS BITTEN BY A RADIO-ACTIVE SPIDER--

-- AND FOUND HIMSELF POSSESSED OF THE PROPORTIONAL STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF A HUMAN SPIDER!

DESIGNING A COSTUME, HE BECAME THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! BUT, ONE DAY WHILE HE WAS OUT SHOWING OFF...

THIS BURGLAR KILLED UNCLE BEN!

I HAD THE POWER TO STOP HIM -- BUT I DIDN'T!

IT'S MY FAULT THAT UNCLE BEN IS DEAD! THAT GUILT HAS HAUNTED ME FOR YEARS.

THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED THAT... WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MAY

OH, I JUST SEEM TO SORT THINGS OUT WHENEVER I COME HERE, NATHAN.

I WISH I DID!

BEN PARKER, I FEEL WEAK IN THE KNEE.

LEAN ON ME, MAY-- I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.

PROMISE ME, BEN? PROMISE?

"HE PROMISED. YOUR FATHER-- RICHARD PARKER, BEN'S YOUNGER BROTHER-- WAS HIS BEST MAN."

MY LIFE SEEMS SO CONFUSED THESE DAYS. I'VE BEEN JUGGLING *FOUR LIVES*...

FREELANCE PHOTO-GRAPHER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE--GRADUATE STUDENT--TEACHING ASSISTANT--AND OF COURSE, *SPIDER-MAN*!

MY GRADES HAVE BEEN SLIPPING LATELY--

--AND MY DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S THREATENED TO TAKE AWAY MY TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP IF THEY GET ANY WORSE.

THAT JOB PAYS MY TUITION!

EVERY PENNY I GET FROM MY NEWSPAPER WORK GOES FOR MY RENT, MY LIVING EXPENSES, AND TO AUNT MAY'S MEDICAL CARE.

PETER, MAY I ASK SOMETHING OF YOU?

ANYTHING, AUNT MAY! YOU KNOW THAT!

NATHAN AND I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE RESTWELL NURSING HOME--TO RETURN TO MY OLD HOUSE, WHERE YOU GREW UP.

THE PLACE IS IN SHAMBLES NOW, BUT IT CAN BE FIXED UP.

WE PLAN TO TURN IT INTO A "HALF-WAY HOUSE" FOR SENIOR CITIZENS--LIKE US.

AND YOU NEED MY HELP?

JUST A LOAN, PETER--TO GET STARTED. WE'LL PAY YOU BACK.

DON'T WORRY, AUNT MAY--I OWE YOU MORE THAN I CAN EVER POSSIBLY REPAY.

THE BOY SEEMS TROUBLED, MAY.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED HIM FOR THE MONEY, NATHAN. PETER SEEMS TO HAVE SO MUCH ON HIS MIND LATELY.

DON'T BABY HIM, MAY, DEAR. I'M SURE HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

BOY, AUNT MAY NEVER STOPS PLUGGING! A HALF-WAY HOUSE FOR SENIORS!

I HAVE TO HELP HER RAISE THE MONEY SHE NEEDS! BUT HOW--?

SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR TINGLE INTRUDES ON PETER PARKER'S REVERIE...

MY SPIDER-SENSE ALERTING ME TO DANGER--!





SOME HOURS LATER, ON THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

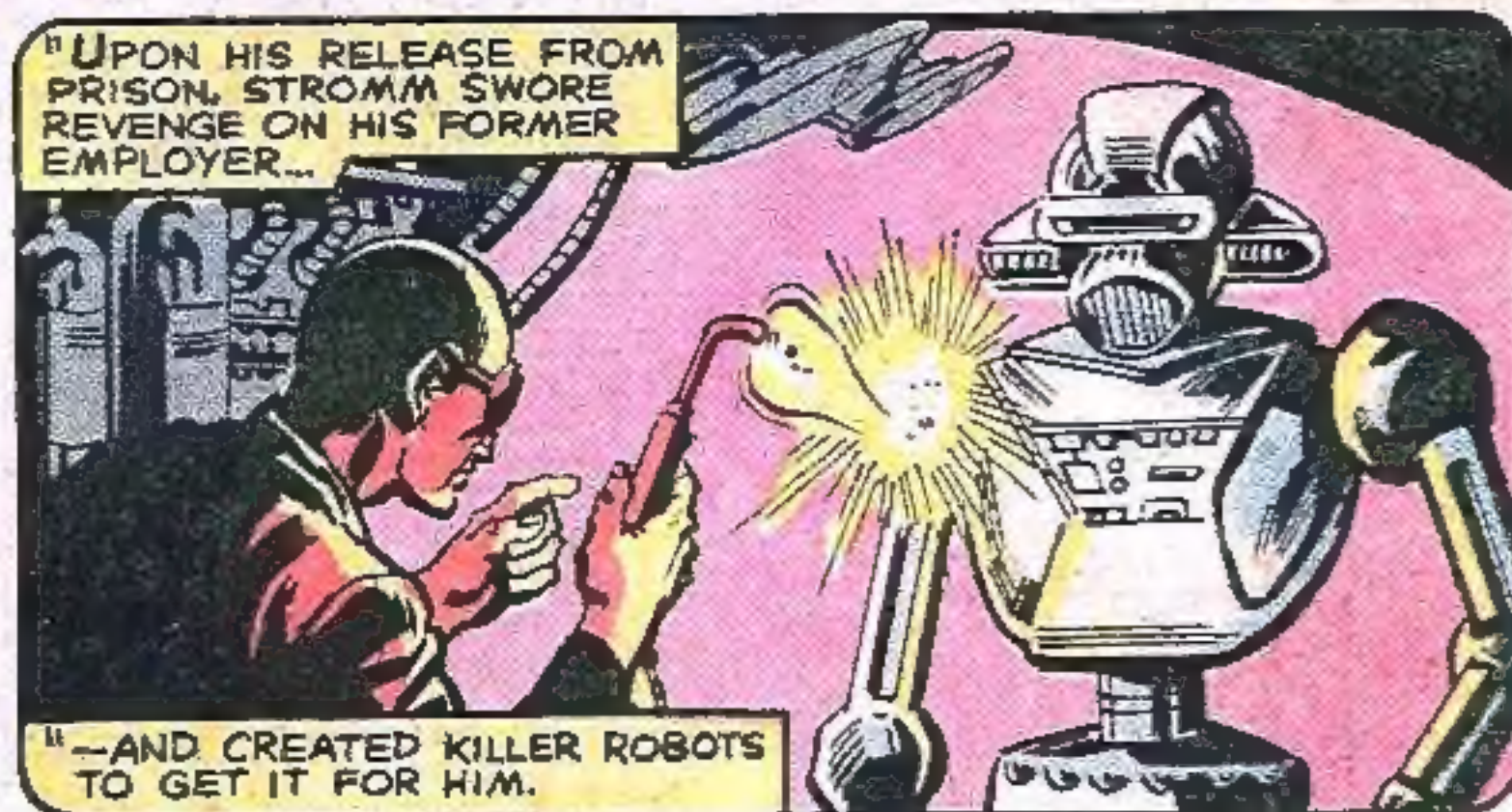
MENDEL STROMM.
I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D HEAR THAT
NAME AGAIN!



STROMM WAS A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS WHO WAS CAUGHT EMBEZZLING FUNDS FROM THE COMPANY HE WORKED FOR...



"UPON HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON, STROMM SWORE REVENGE ON HIS FORMER EMPLOYER..."



"...AND CREATED KILLER ROBOTS TO GET IT FOR HIM."



"THAT'S WHEN I ENTERED THE PICTURE... AND PUT AN END TO STROMM'S PLANS..."

"BUT THEN, JUST AS STROMM WAS ABOUT TO SURRENDER, MY SPIDER-SENSE ALERTED ME TO..."

DANGER! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW!



I SHOVED STROMM OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE, BUT HIS FRIGHT CAUSED HIS WEAK HEART TO FAIL.



*SPIDER-MAN #37! 7

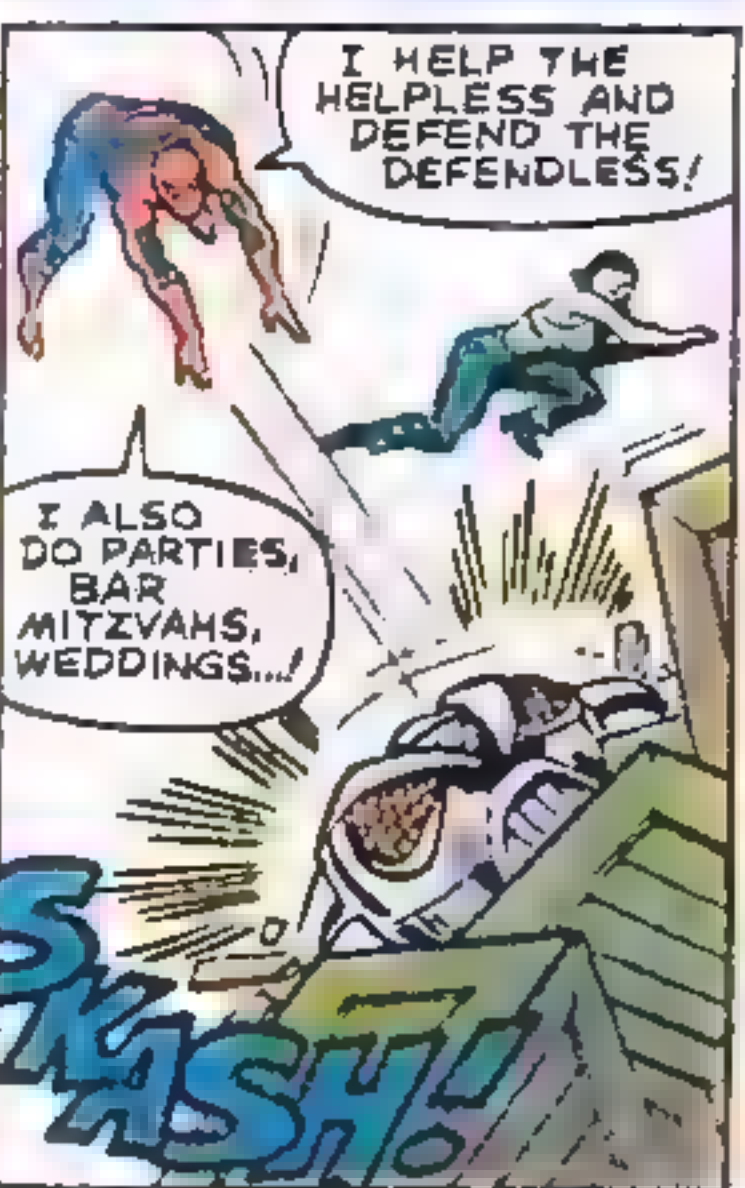
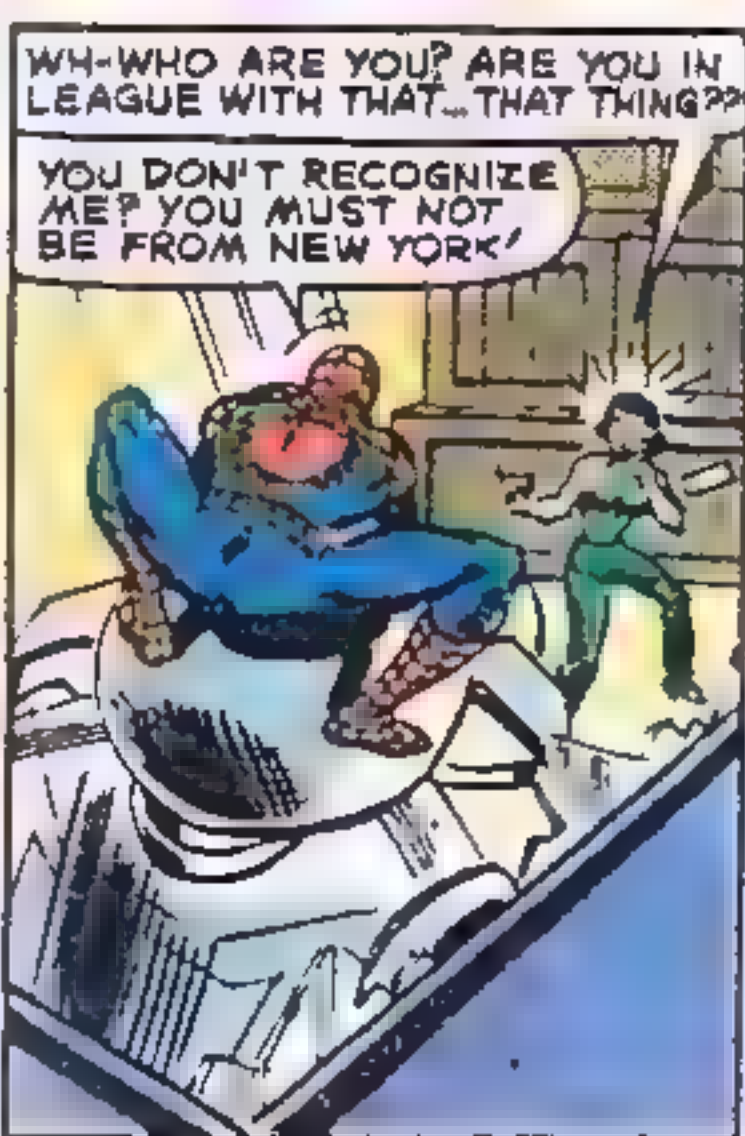
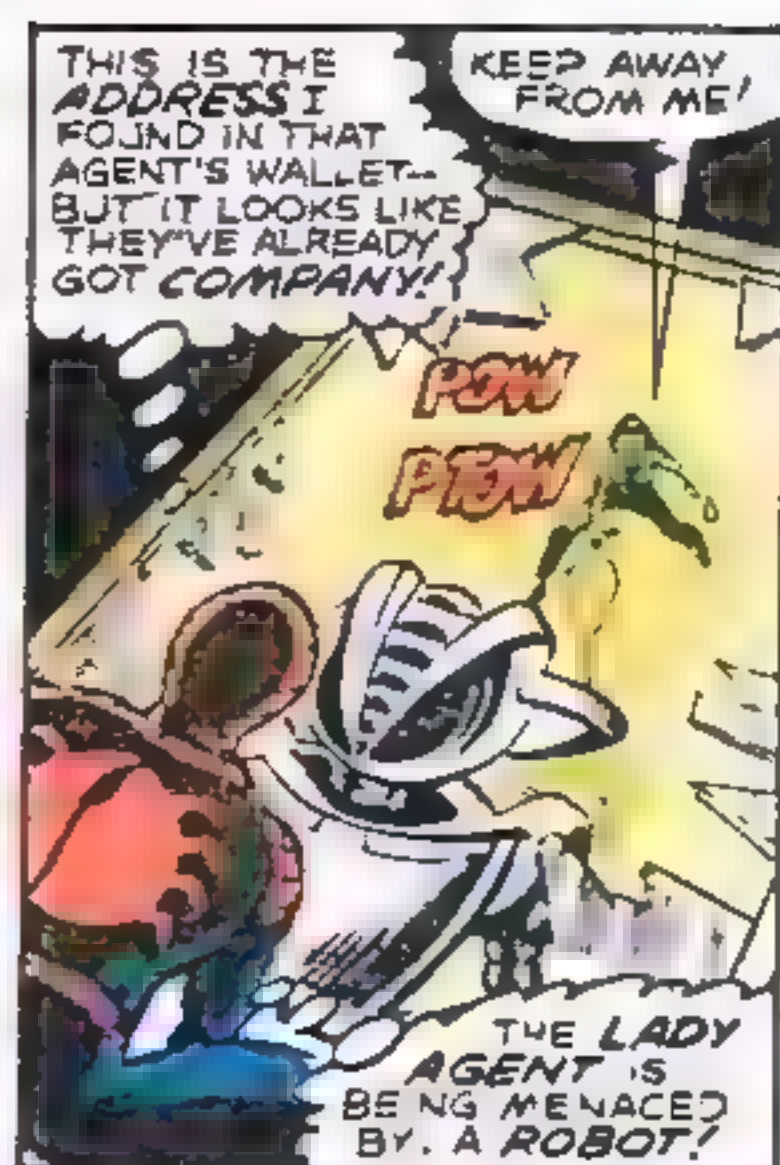
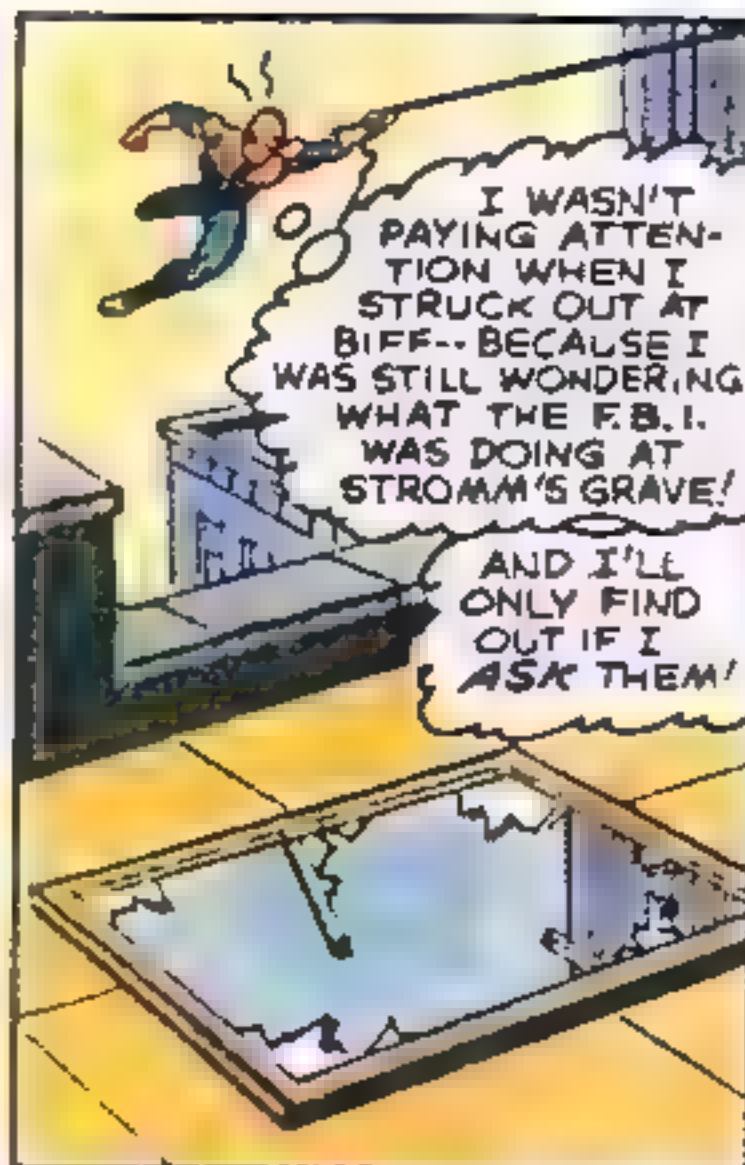


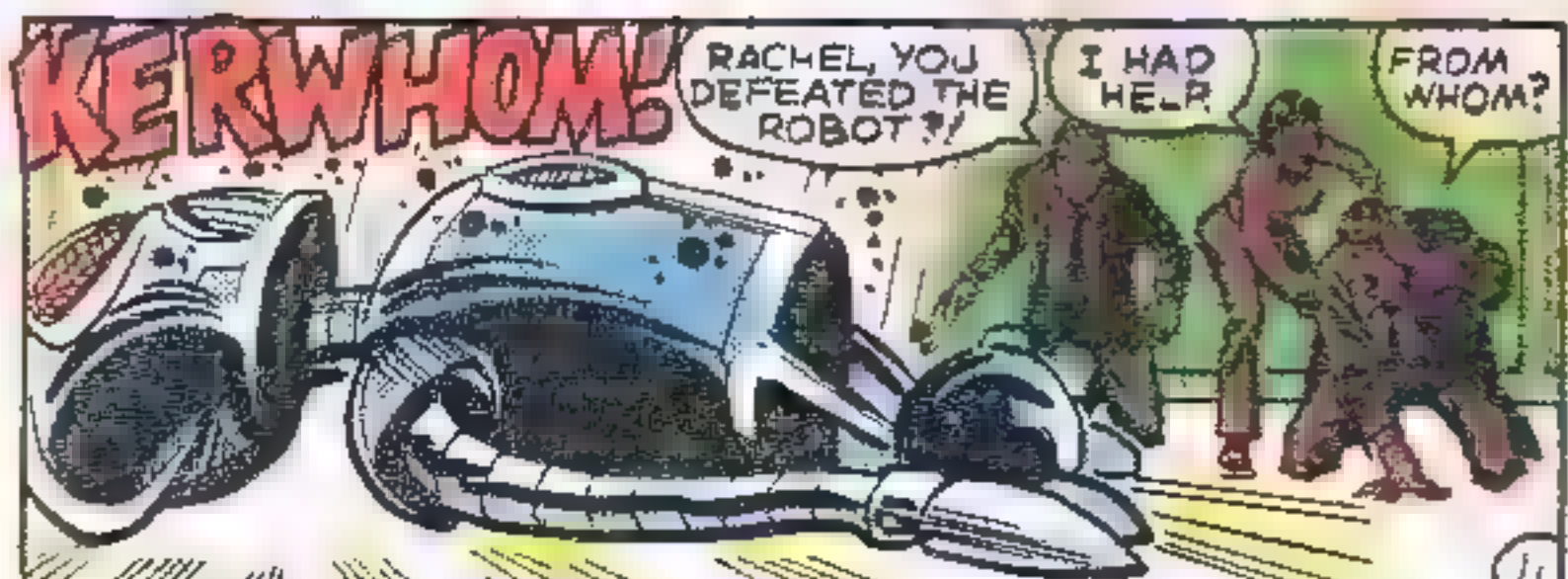
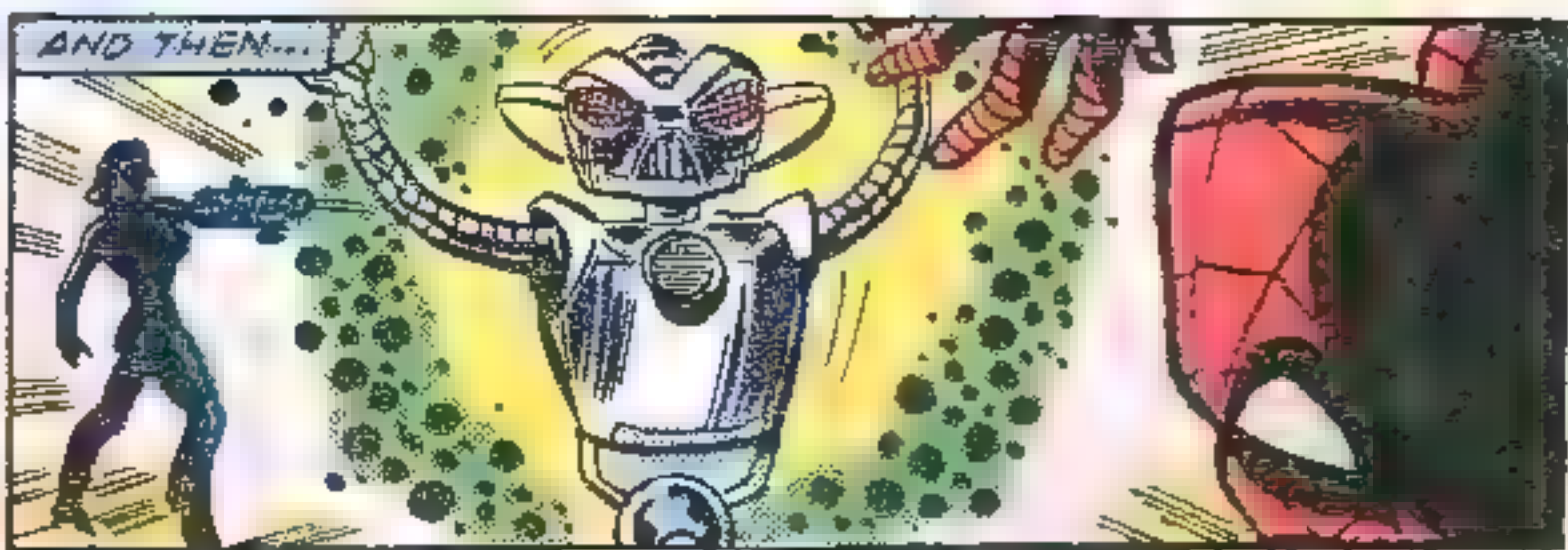
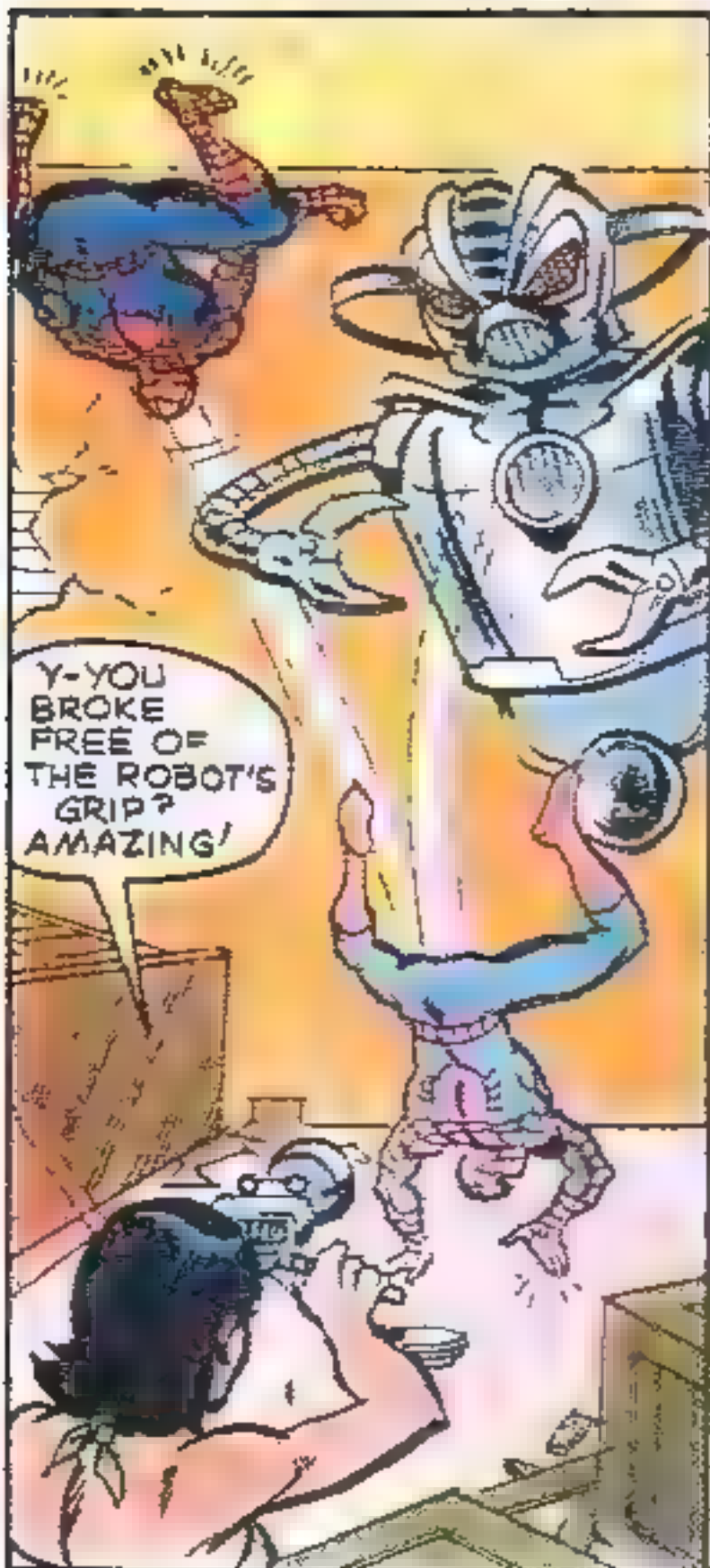
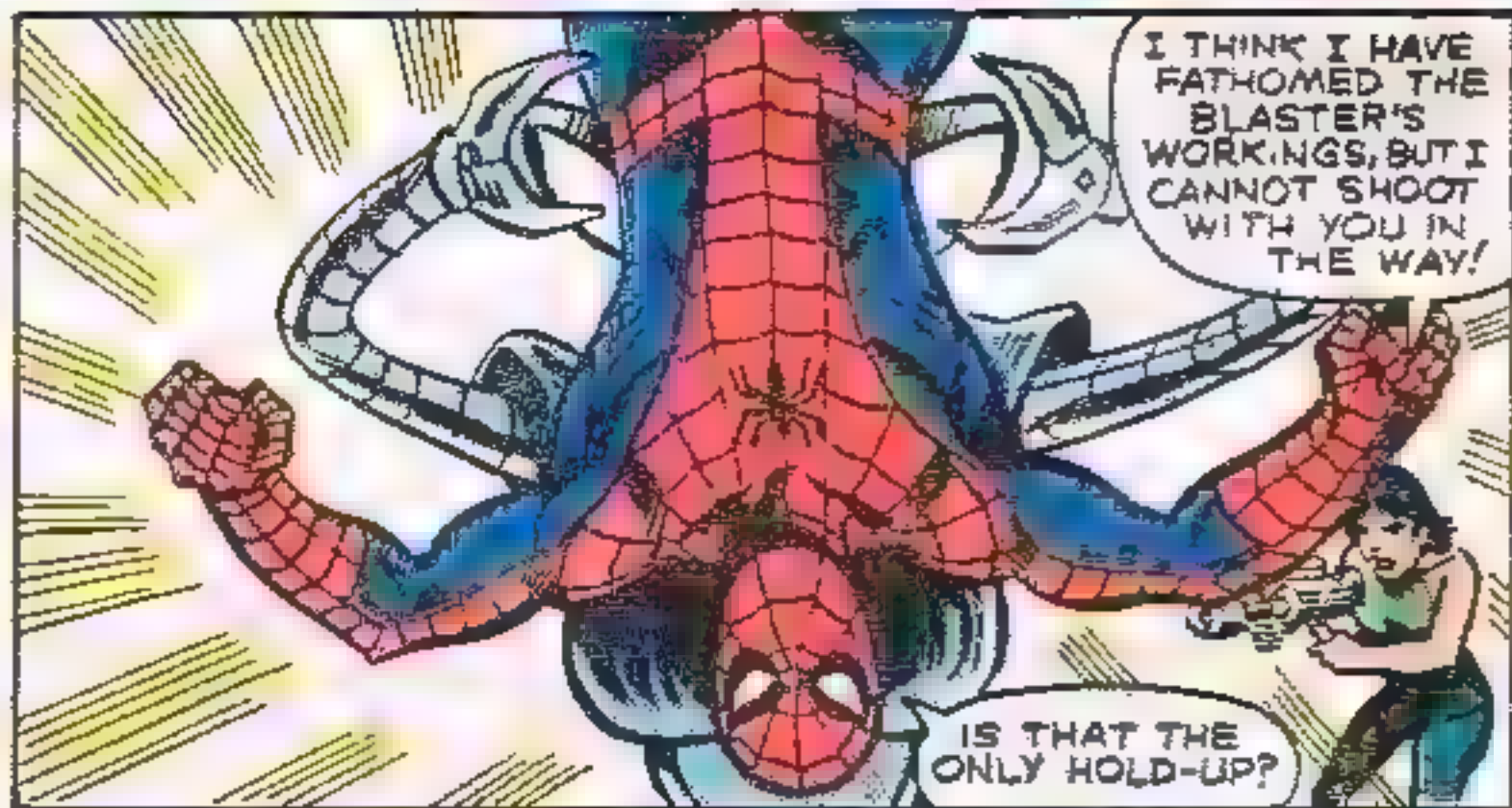
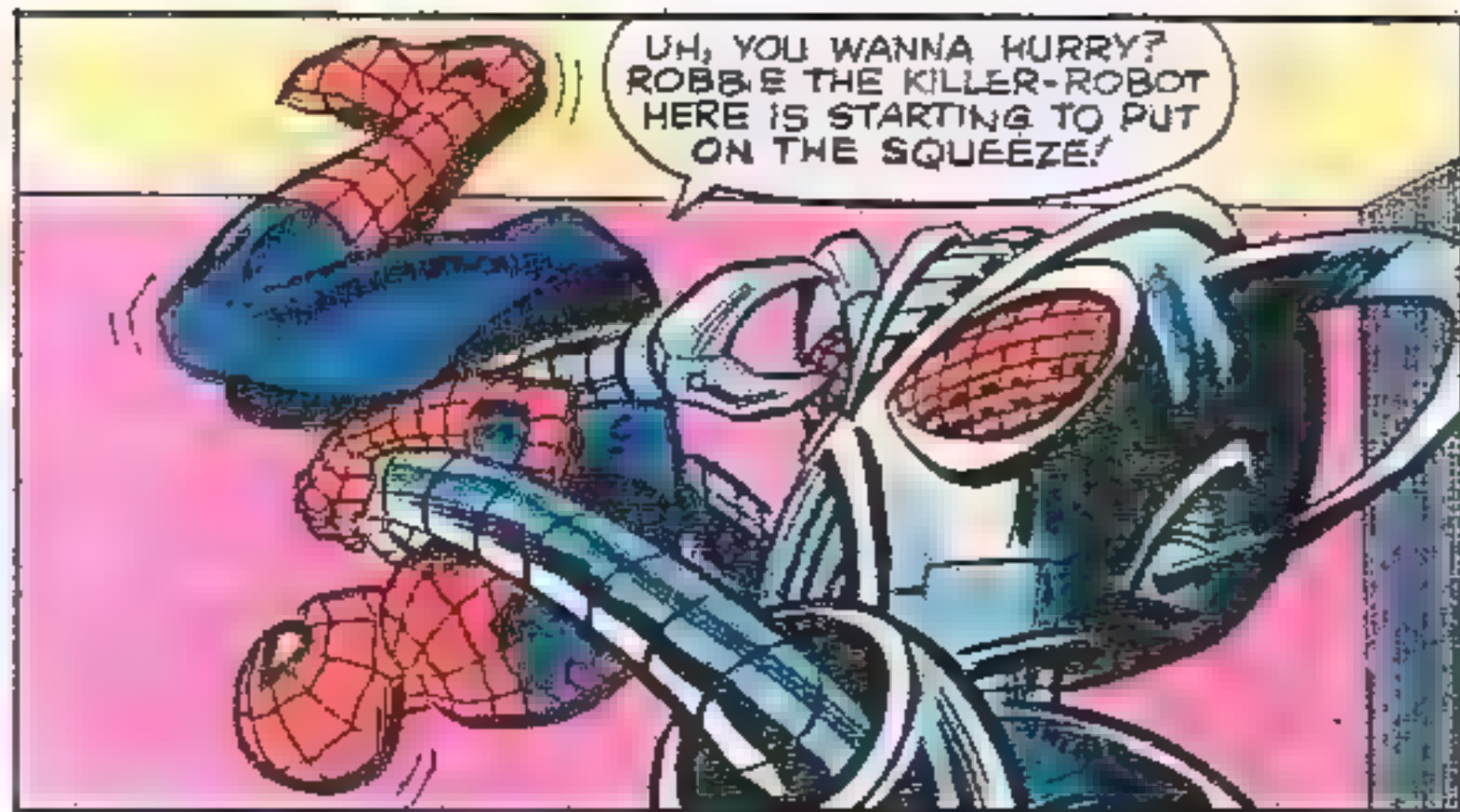
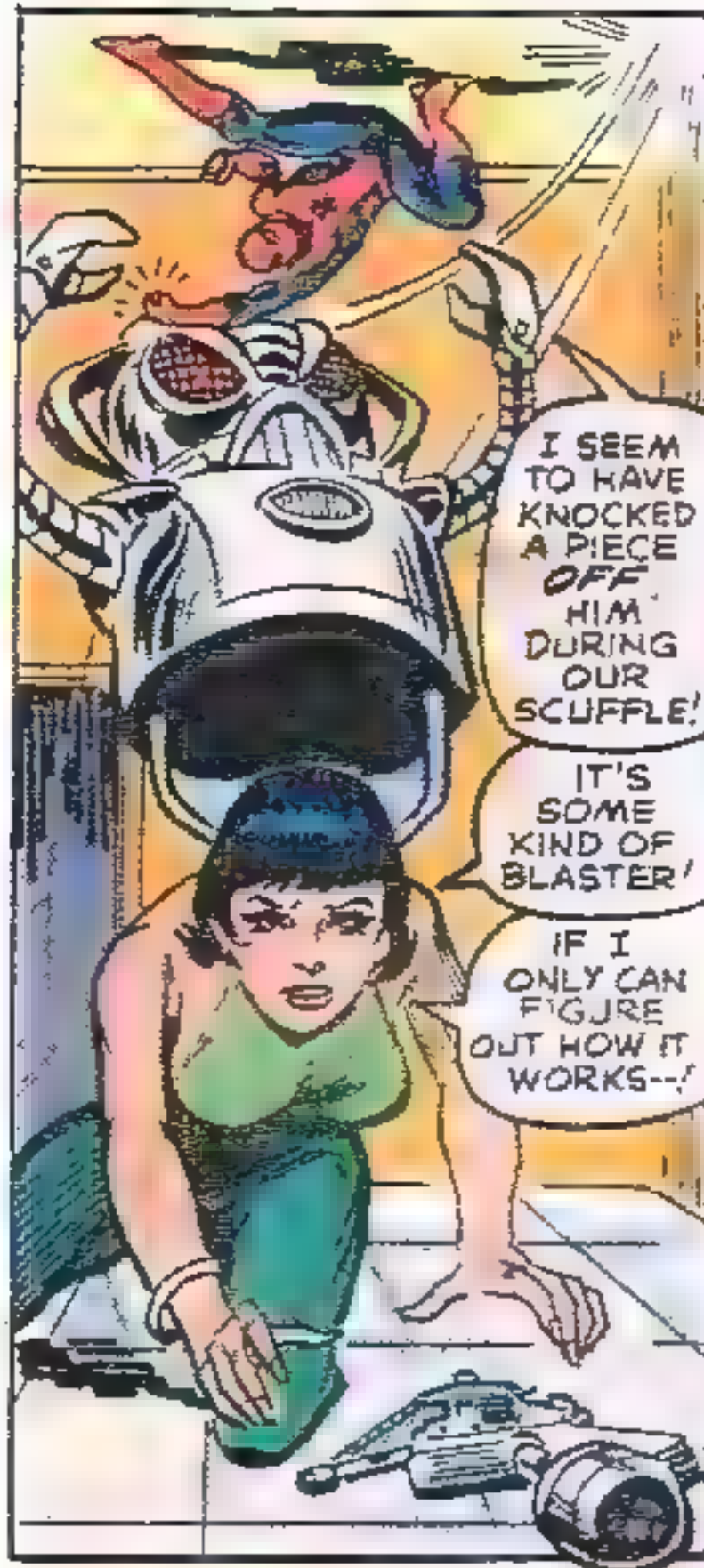


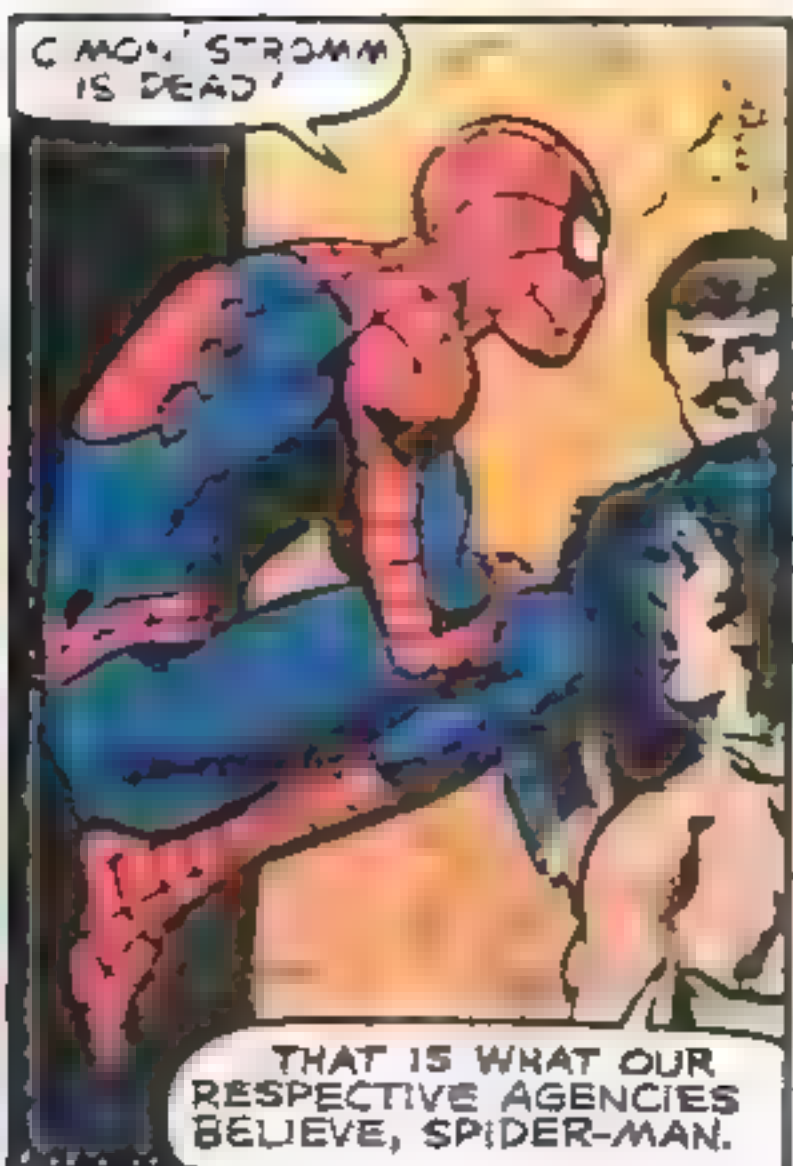
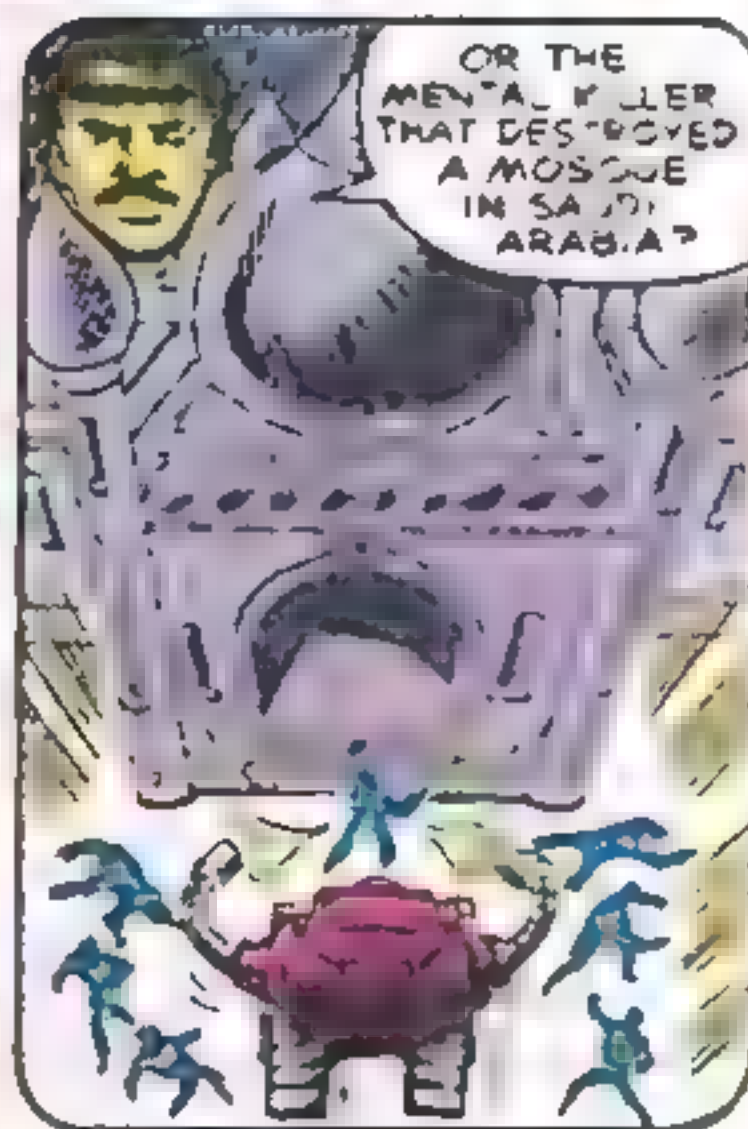
AS SUSPICION GROWS IN DEBRA WHITMAN'S MIND, A COSTUMED PETER PARKER OBVIOUSLY SWINGS AWAY...

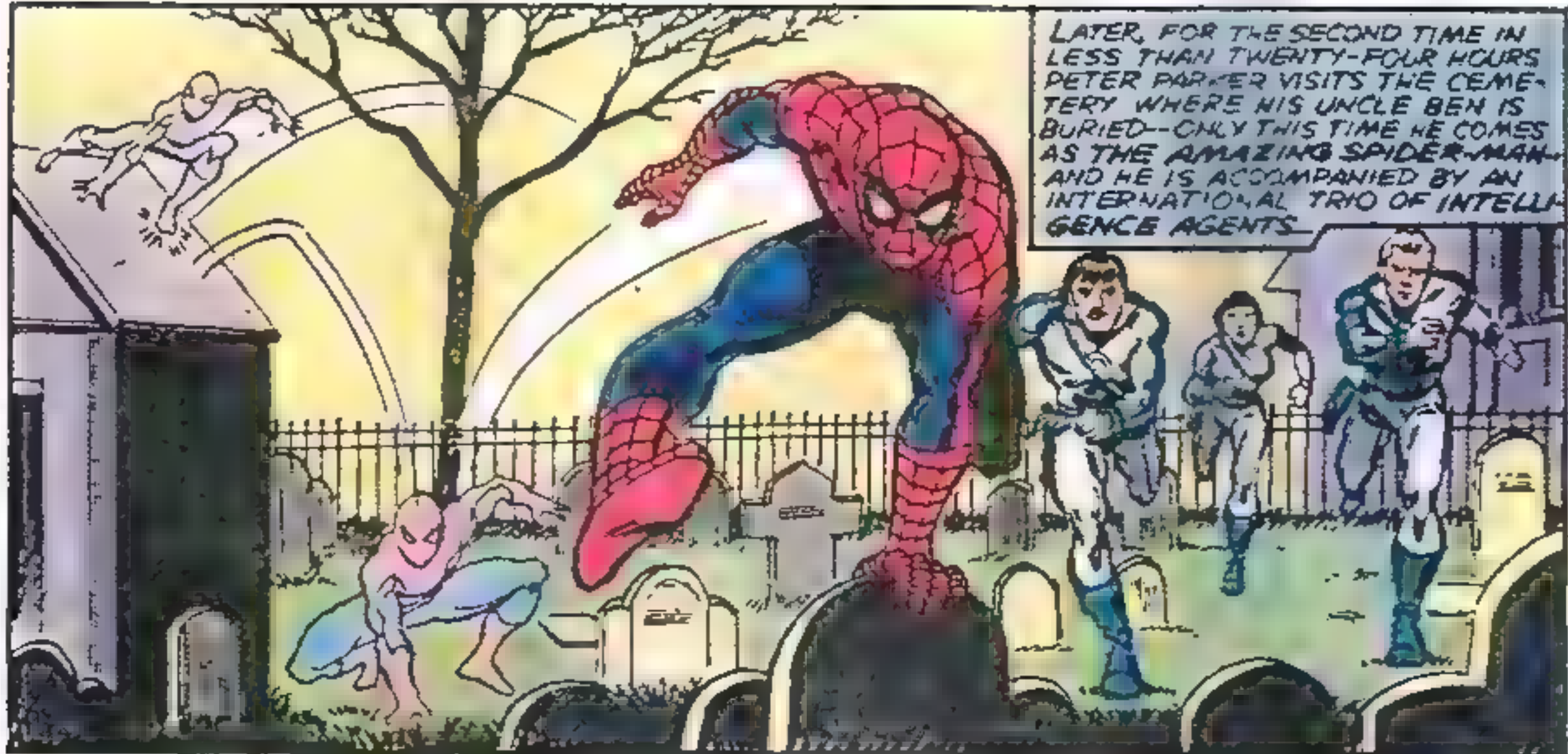
DR. SLOAN'S RIGHT! PETER PARKER IS UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE--

--BUT NONE OF THAT SEEMS TO MATTER WHEN I CUT LOOSE AS SPIDER-MAN!

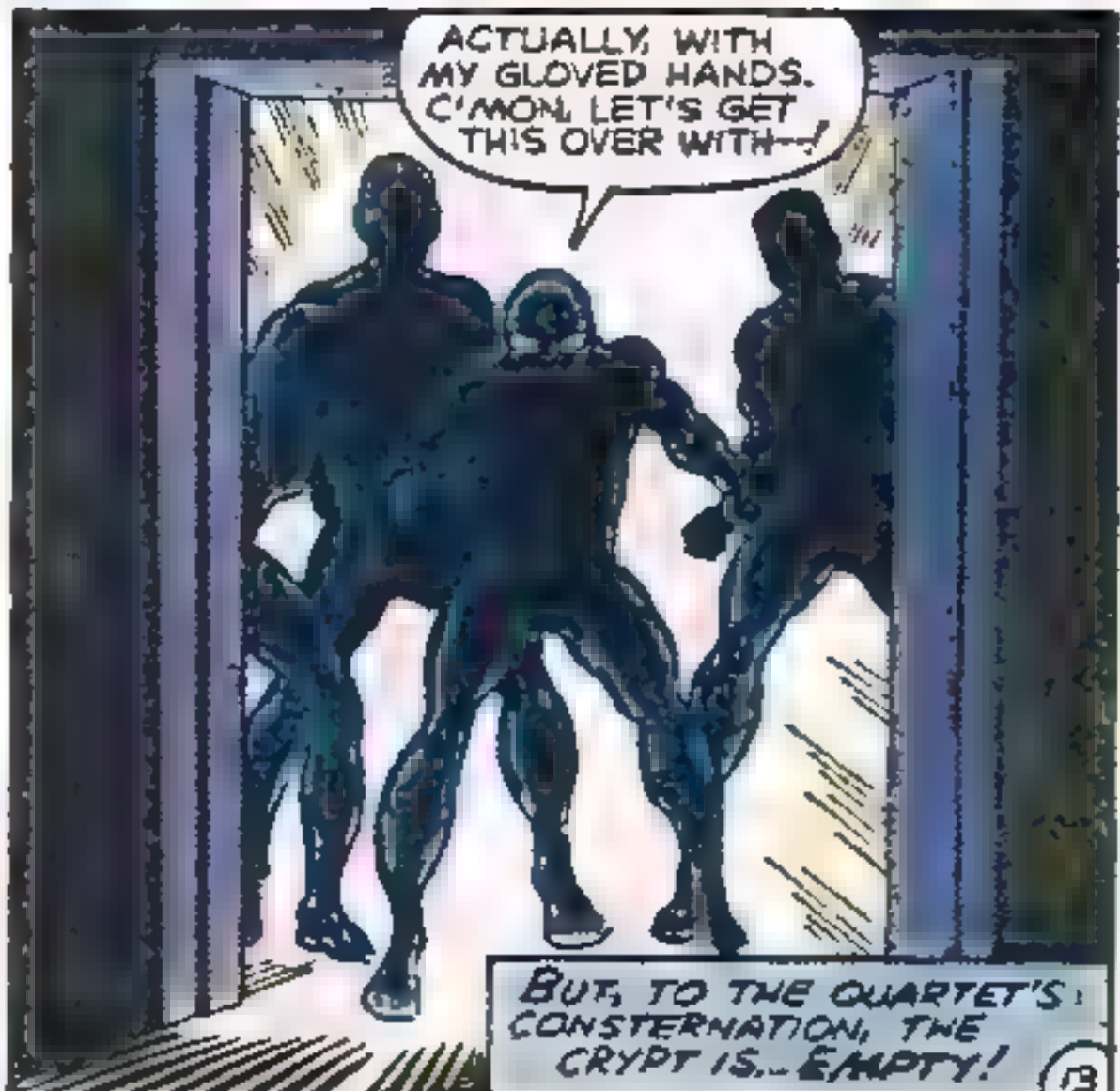
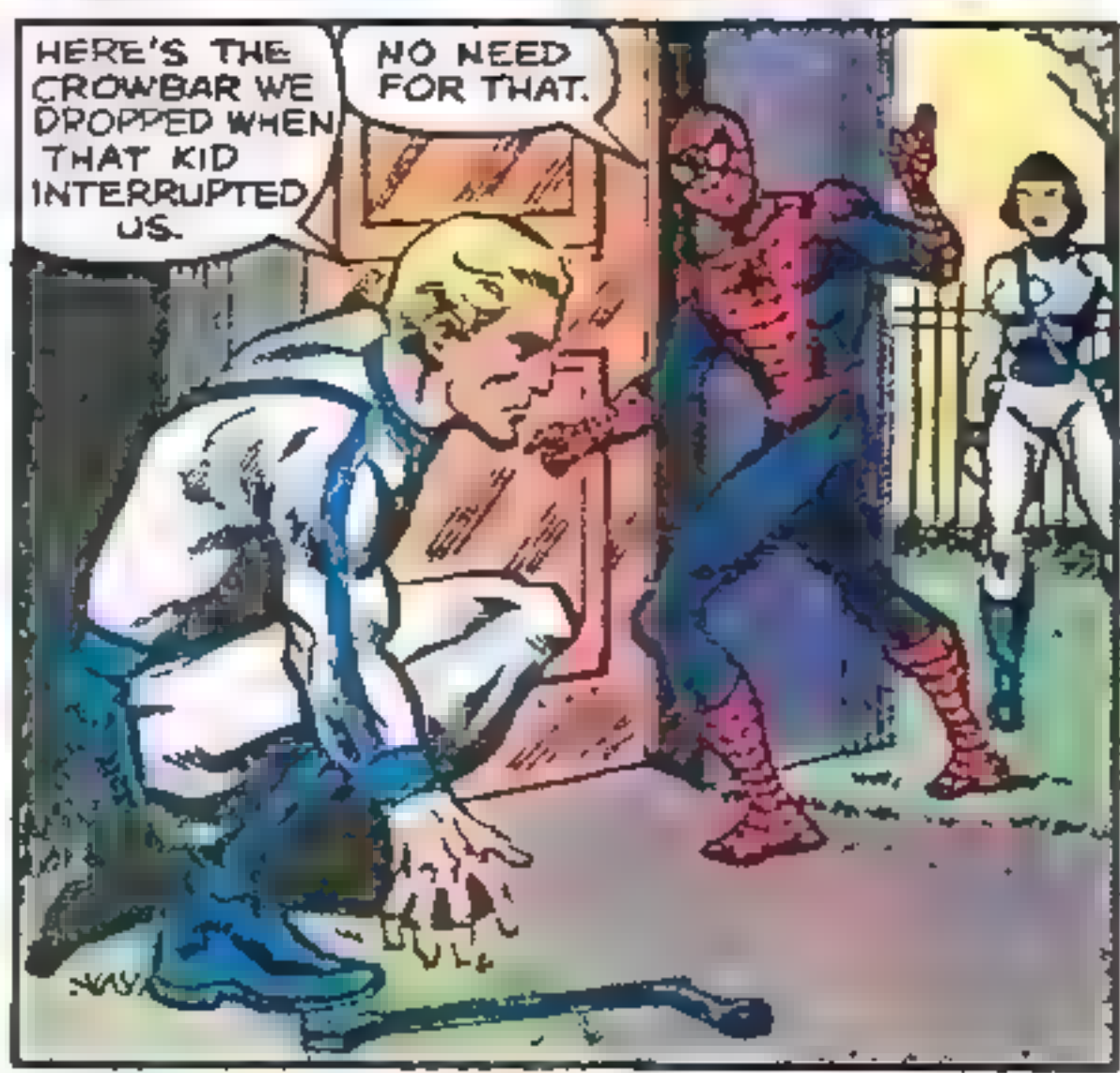
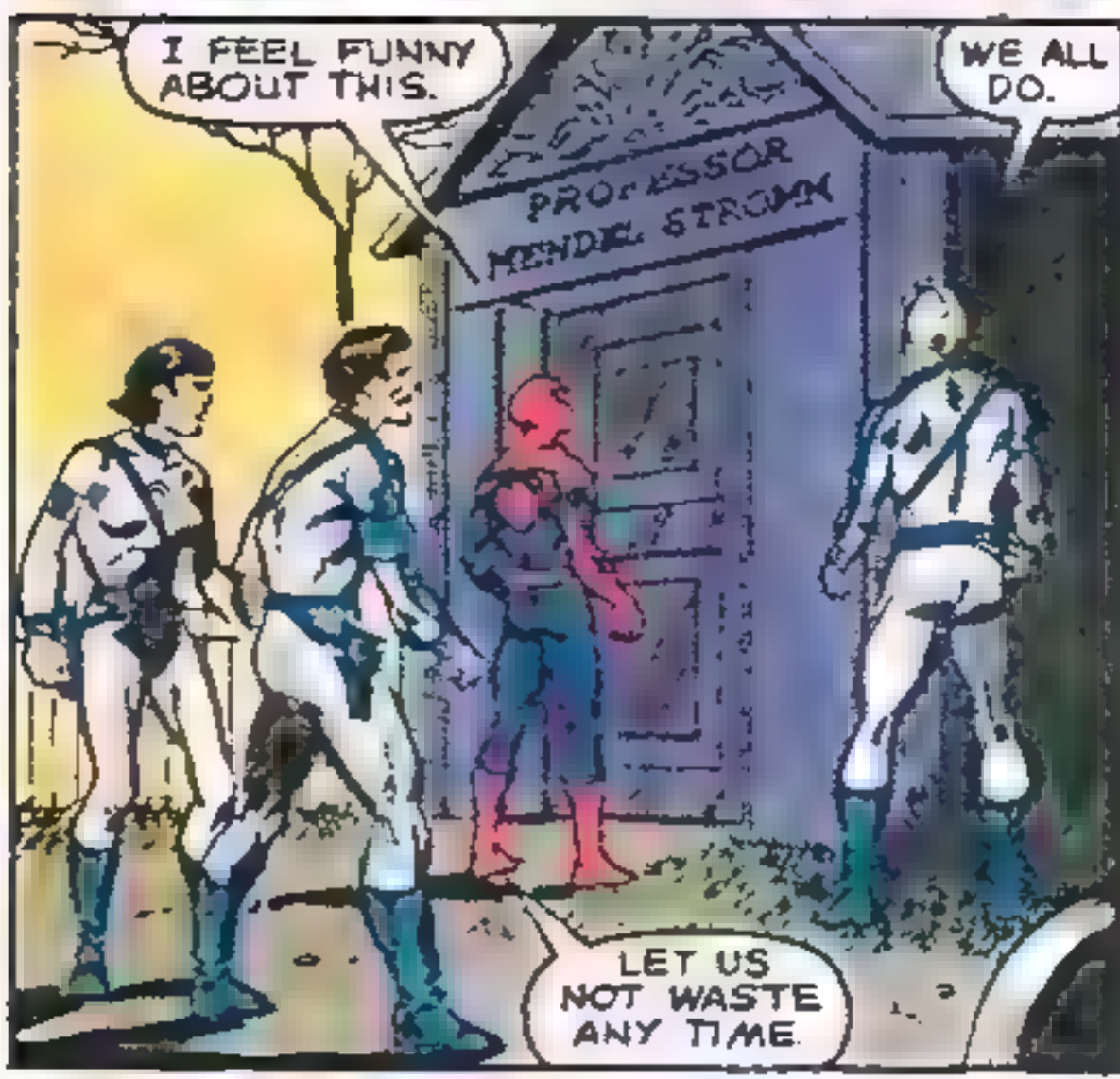


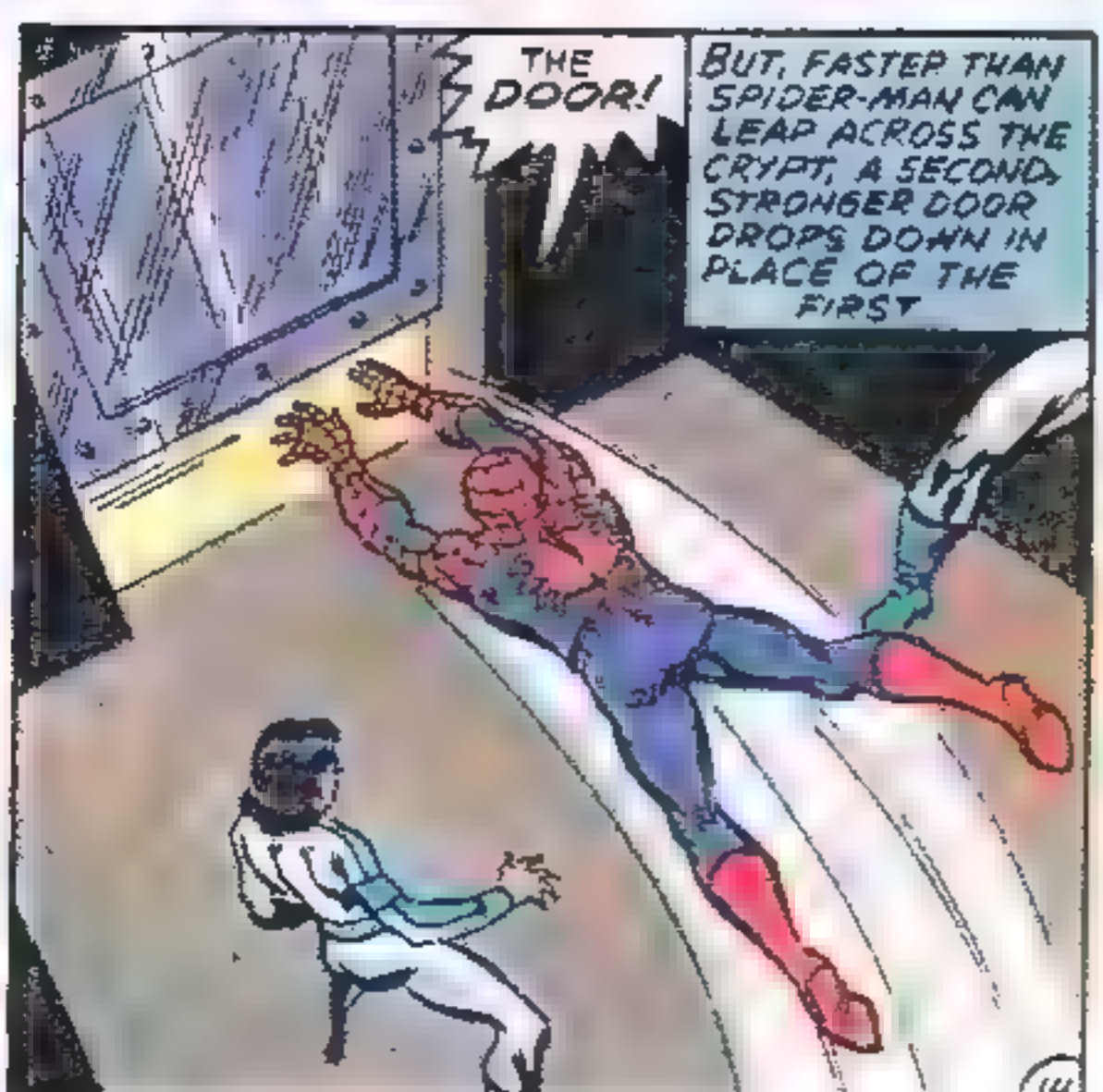
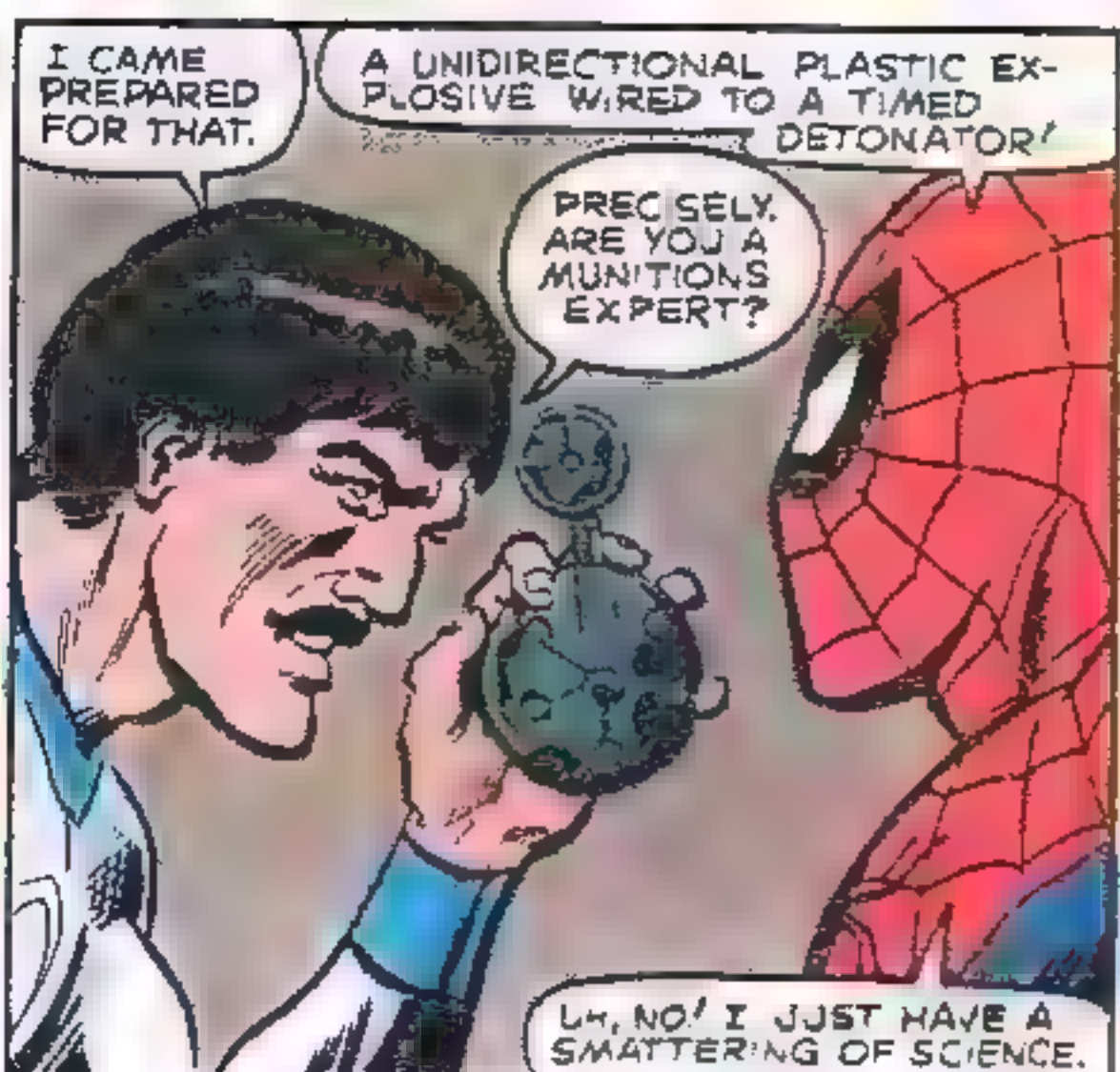
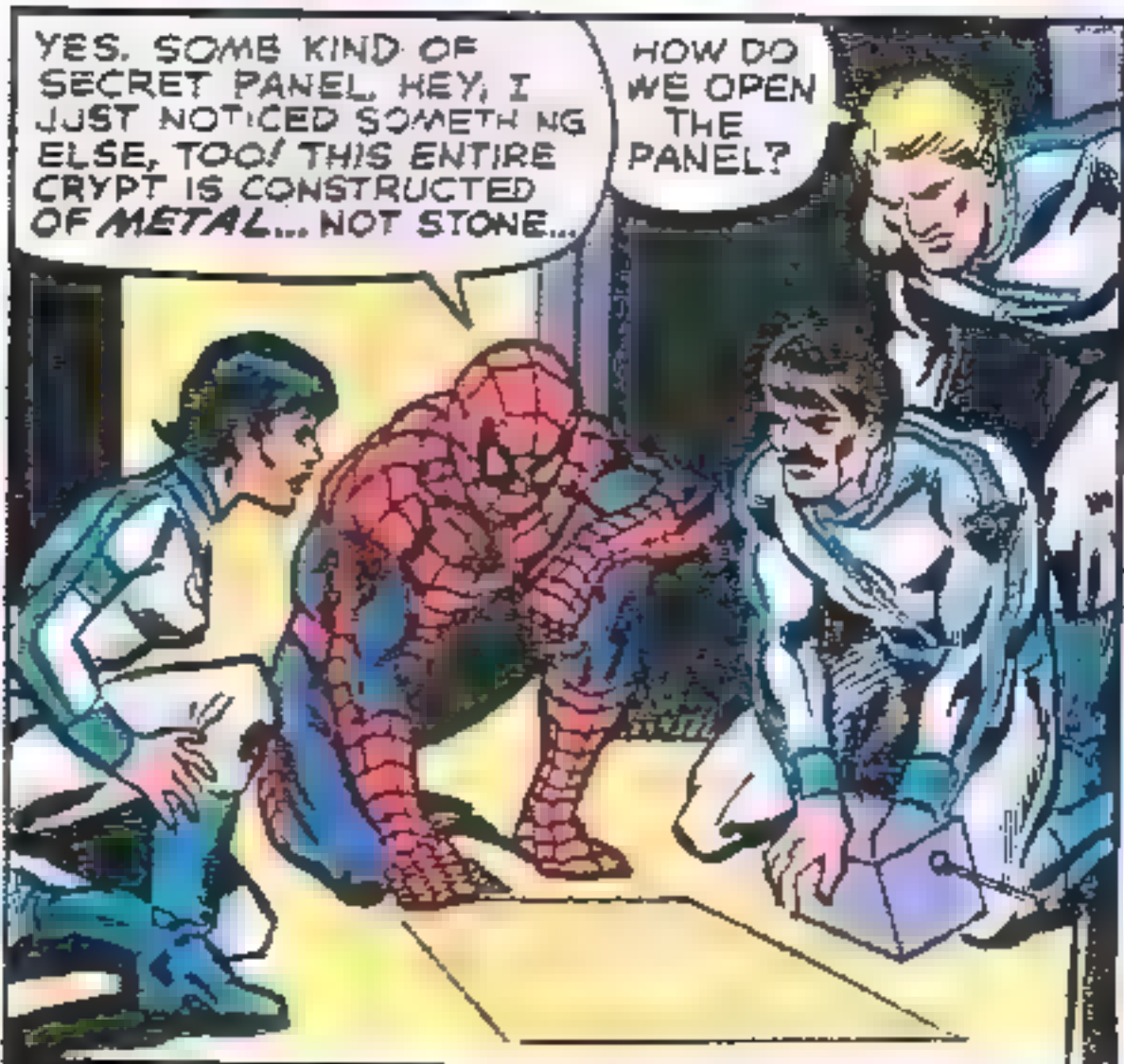
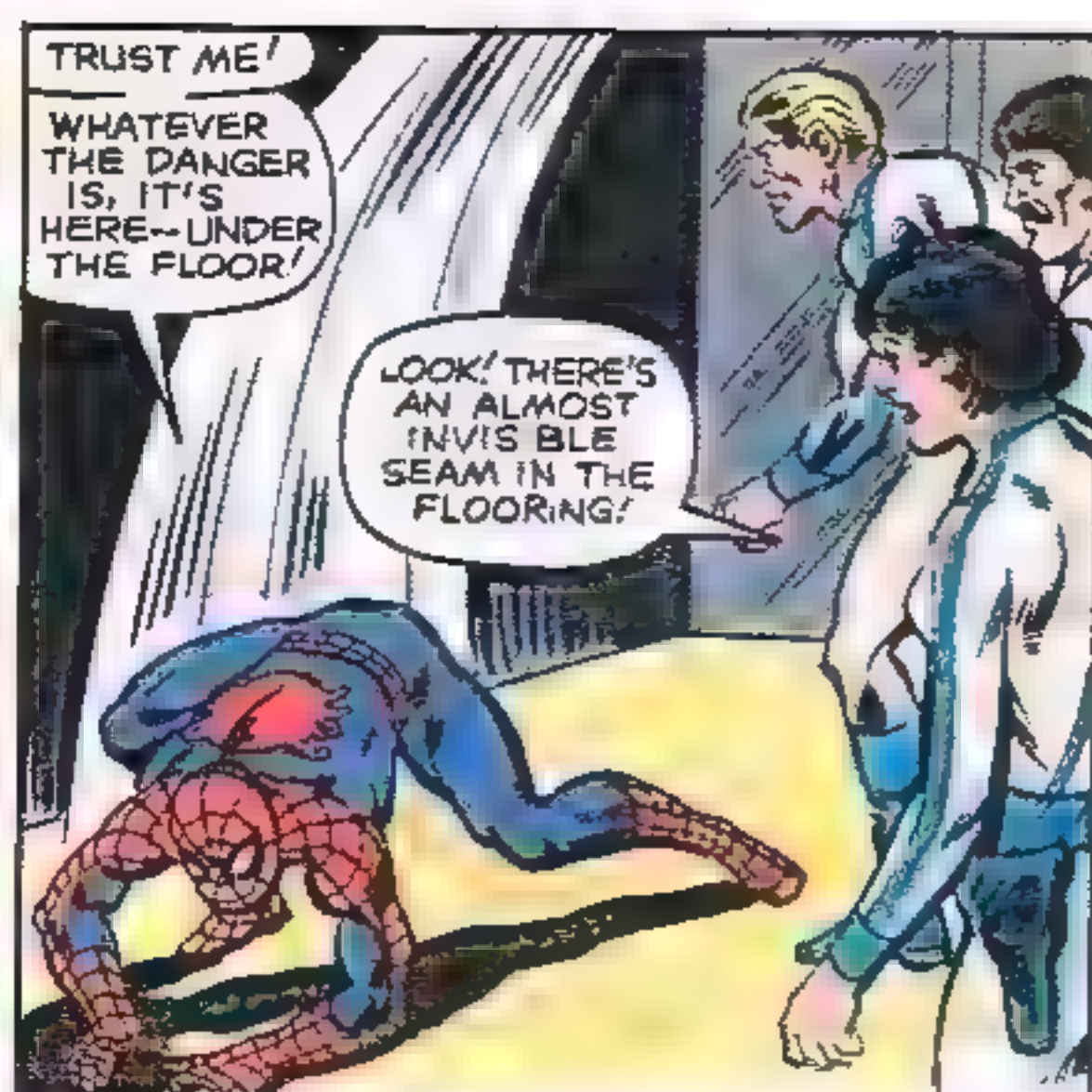
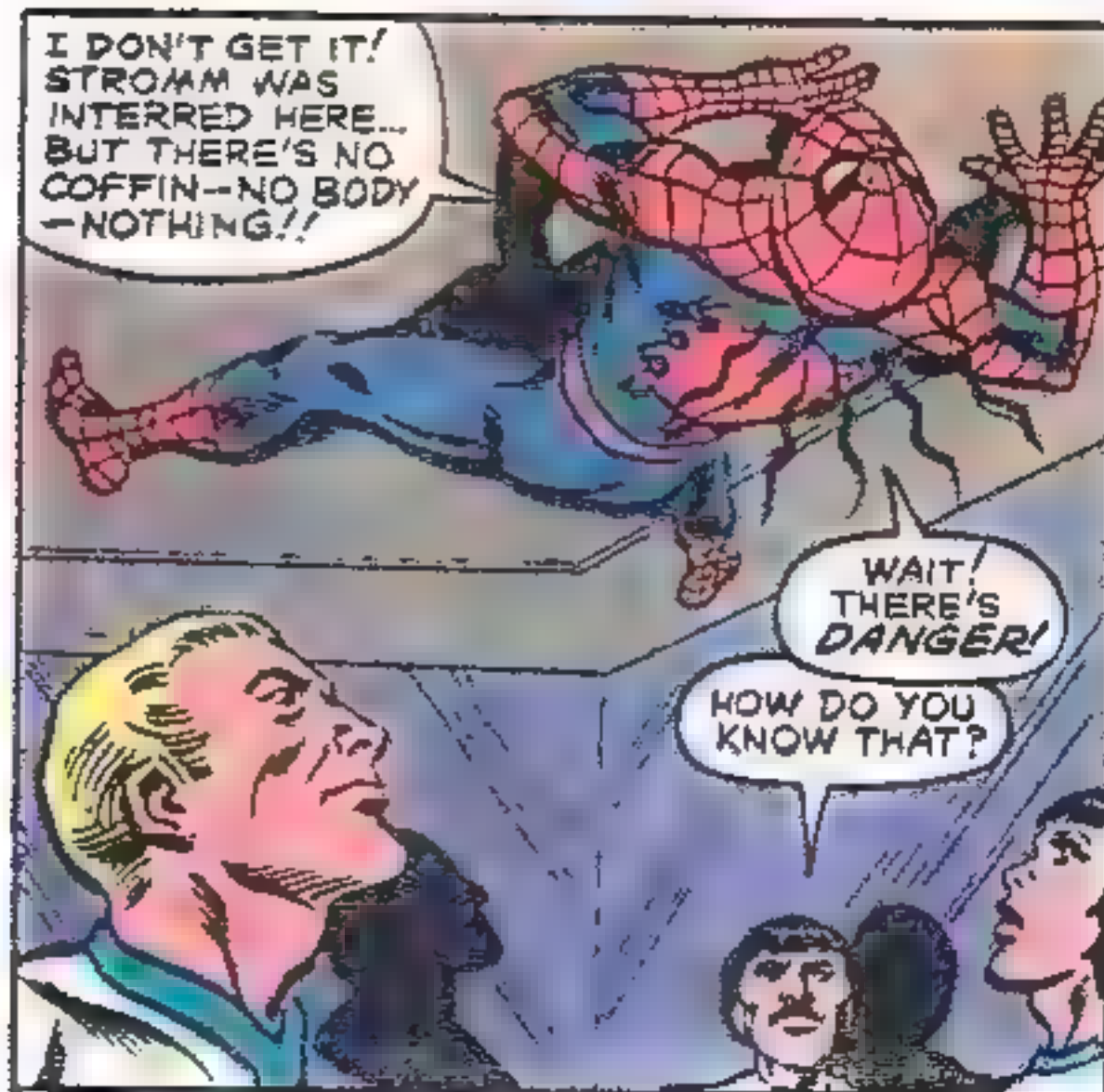






LATER, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PETER PARKER VISITS THE CEMETERY WHERE HIS UNCLE BEN IS BURIED--ONLY THIS TIME HE COMES AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN--AND HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTERNATIONAL TRIO OF INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.





WOW! THIS DOOR'S
MADE TO LAST!

I COULD
PROBABLY
PRY IT OPEN--BUT
IT'LL TAKE TIME!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME! THE
EXPLOSIVE IS SET--
AND THERE'S NO WAY TO
DEFUSE IT! WE'RE
GOING TO DIE!

HOW MUCH
TIME HAVE
WE GOT,
ABDUL?

LESS THAN
A MINUTE!

HURRY!
HUG THE FAR WALL
OF THE CRYPT!
I'M GOING TO SPIN
A **WEB-BLANKET**
OVER THE BOMB TO
ABSORB THE SHOCK!

LAYER UPON LAYER OF
STICKY STRANDS SPIN
FORTH FROM SPIDER-
MAN'S WEB-SHOOTER...

...FORMING A THICK MAT OVER THE TICKING
TIME-BOMB, BUT THEN...

GET READY! IT'S
GONNA... **BOOM!**

SOMETIME LATER.

UNHH! SOUNDS LIKE THE
MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR
IS CAROLING IN MY HEAD!

THE CONCUSSION
GOT THE OTHERS!

THEY'RE
ALIVE--BUT
THEY'RE DOWN
FOR THE
COUNT!

I CAN LEAVE THEM TO SLEEP
IT OFF WHILE I EXPLORE
THIS MYSTERIOUS HOLE
IN THE FLOOR!

WILL IT
LEAD ME
TO A
DEAD
MAN?

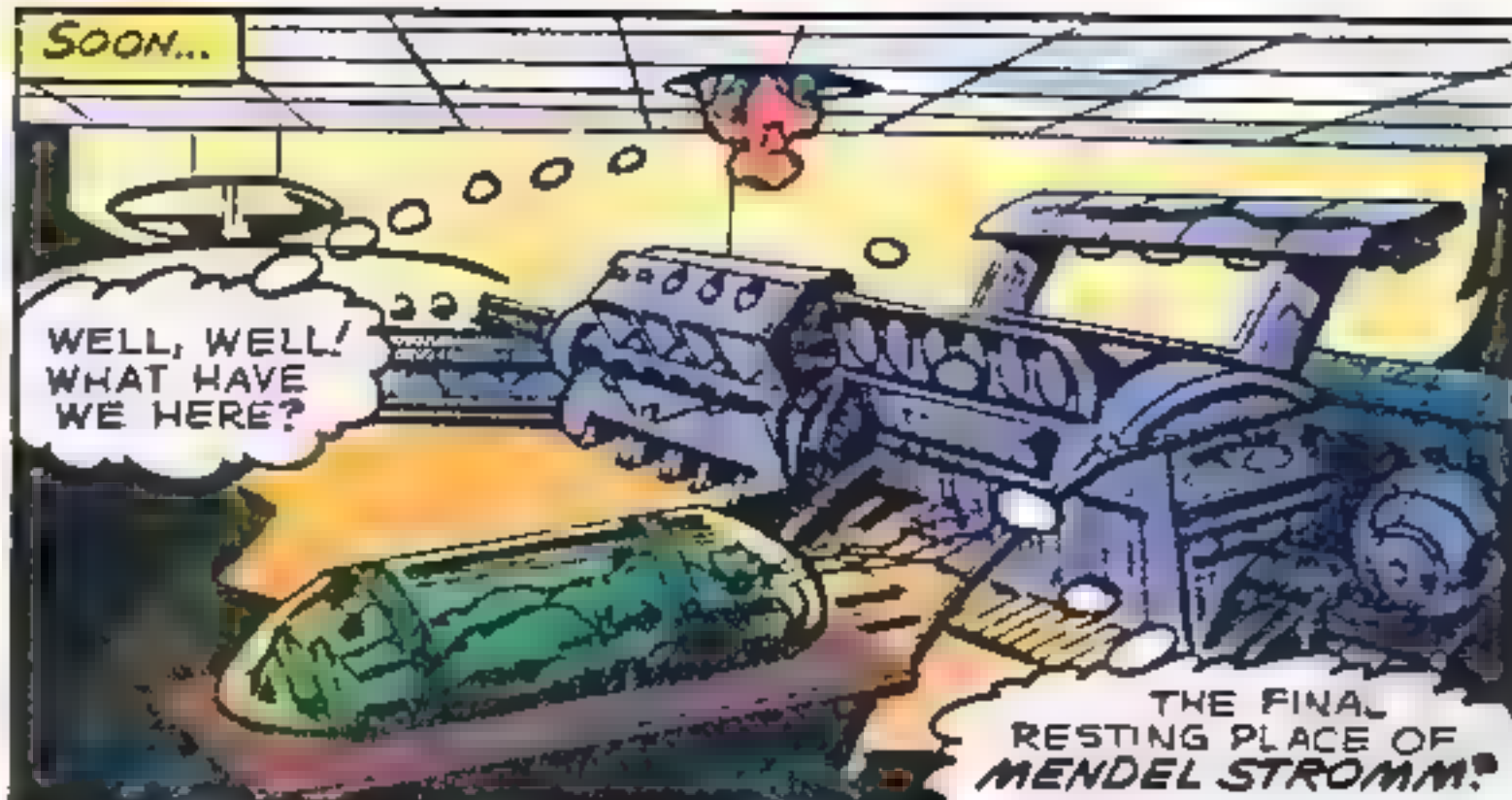
OR TO A
RESURRECTED
**ROBOT-
MASTER??**

DOWN, DOWN,
DOWN THE
CIRCULAR
SHAFT THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN
GOES.



SOON...

WELL, WELL!
WHAT HAVE
WE HERE?



THE FINAL
RESTING PLACE OF
MENDEL STROMM?

I GUESS THE GRAVEYARD UP
TOP WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH
FOR HIM! HE WAS ALWAYS
AN ANTISOCIAL SORT OF GUY!

BUT WHO MOVED
HIM HERE--AND WHY?



UH-OH! I THINK
I'M ABOUT TO
GET MY
ANSWERS--



--FROM
MENDEL
STROMM'S
BROTHER?!

BY NOW YOU
AND YOUR
FRIENDS
HAVE
DEDUCED--



--THAT
MENDEL
STROMM HAD
NO BROTHER

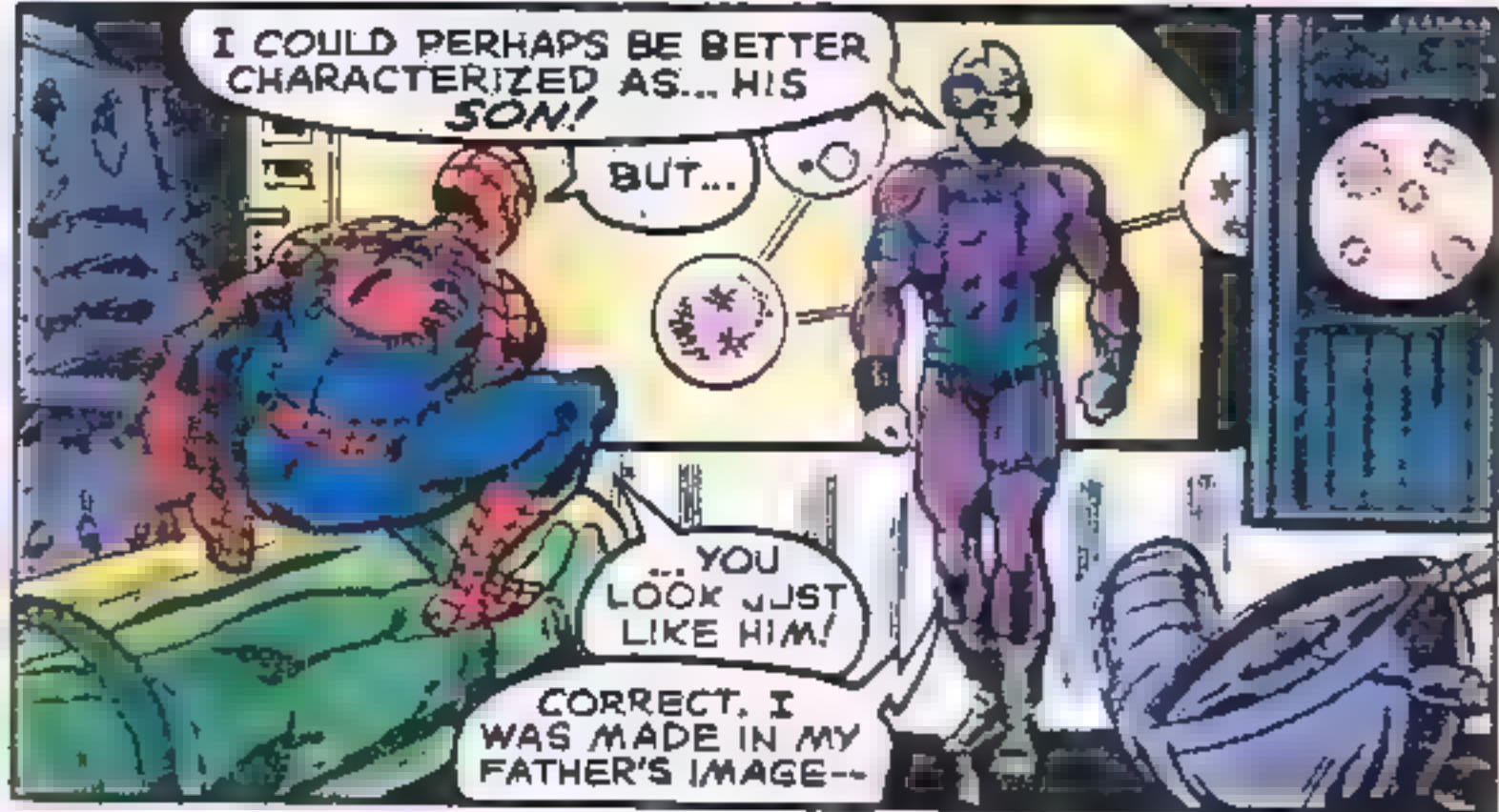
THEN,
WHO--??

I COULD PERHAPS BE BETTER
CHARACTERIZED AS... HIS
SON!

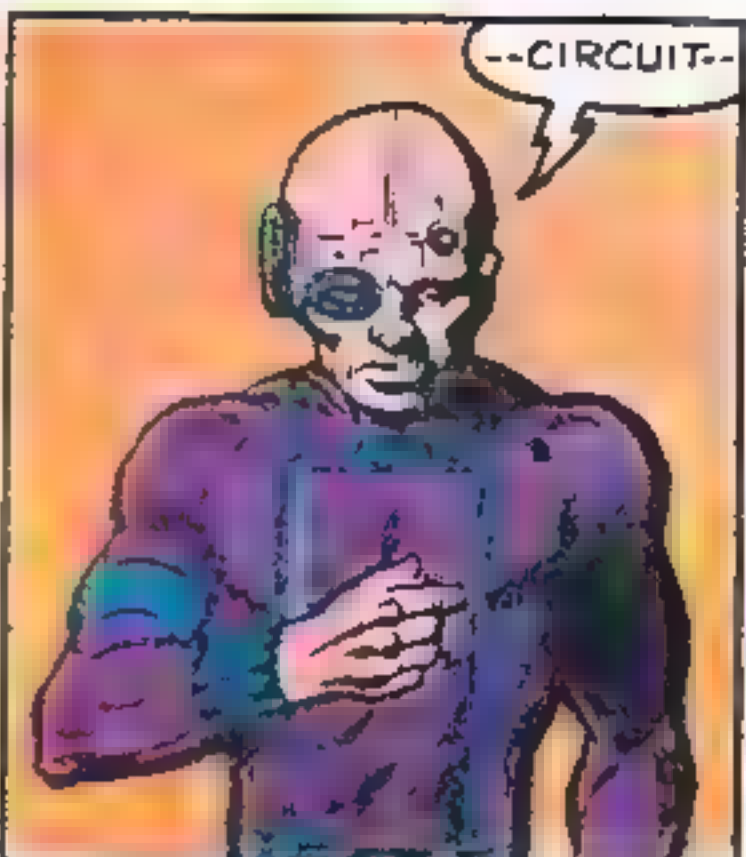
BUT...

...YOU
LOOK JUST
LIKE HIM!

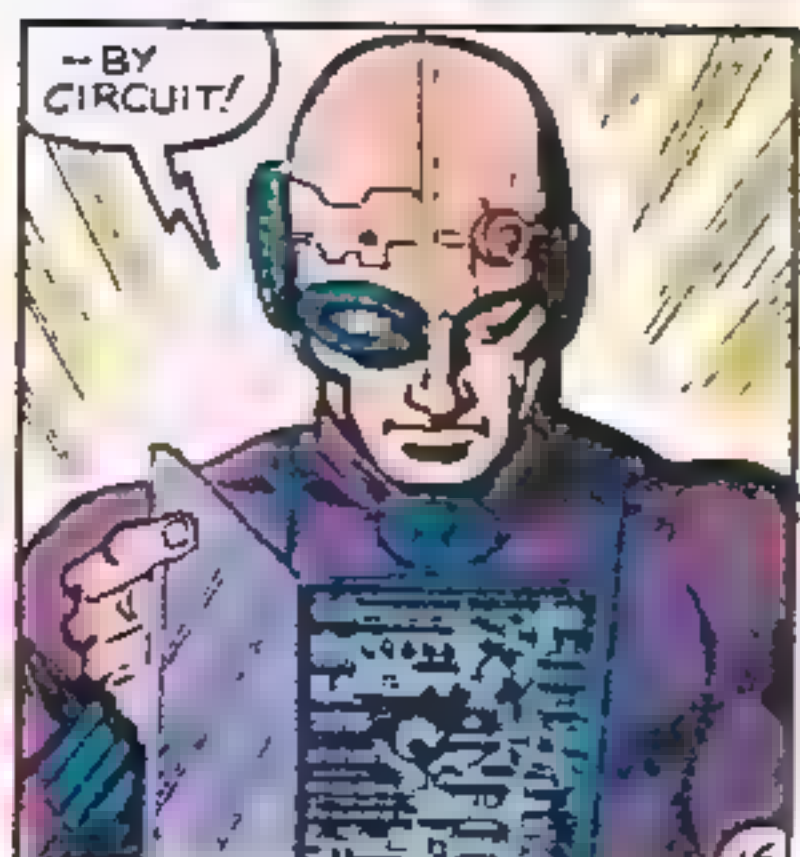
CORRECT, I
WAS MADE IN MY
FATHER'S IMAGE--



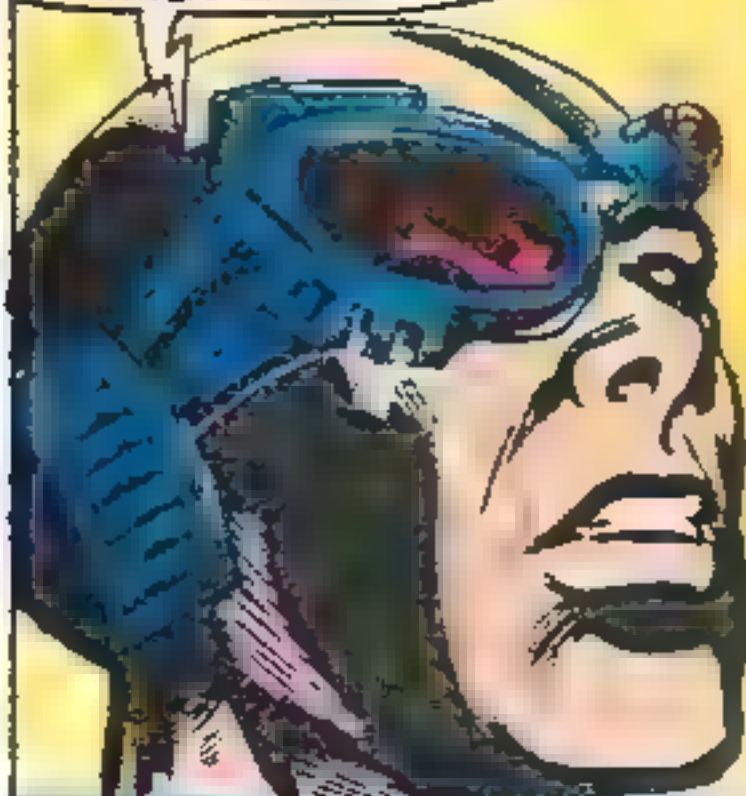
--CIRCUIT--



--BY
CIRCUIT!

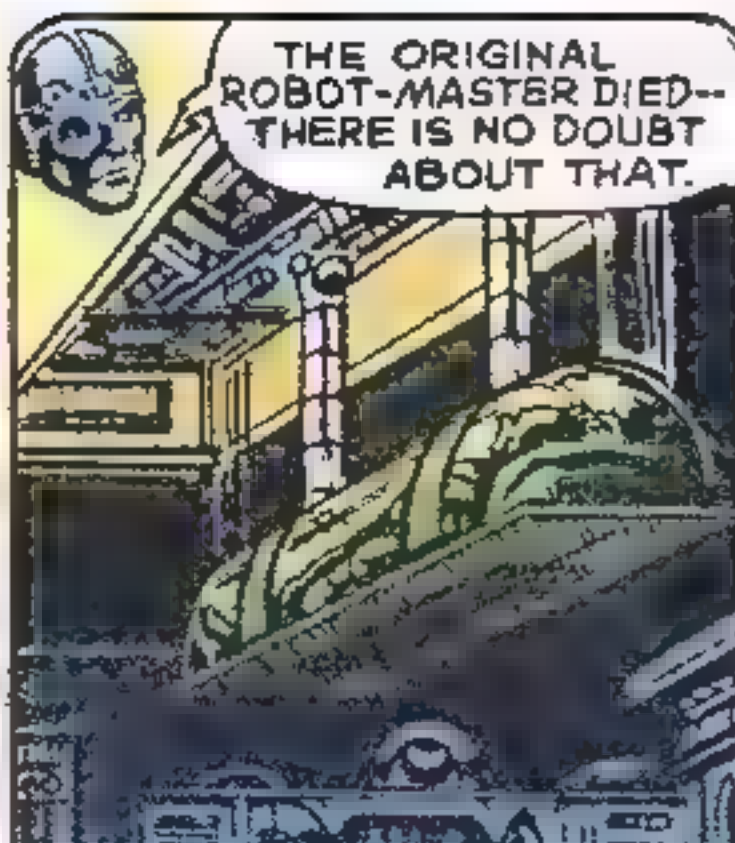


FOR MENDEL STROMM WAS... THE **ROBOT-MASTER!**



CIRCUITRY SEEMS TO CLICK IN THE AUTOMATON'S SKULL, DRAWING FORTH DATA FROM HIS MEMORY BANKS...

THE ORIGINAL ROBOT-MASTER DIED-- THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.



HE WAS PLACED WITHIN A SPECIAL COFFIN OF HIS OWN DESIGN IN THE CRYPT ABOVE THIS HIDDEN LABORATORY WHEN THE CRYPT WAS SEALED, A PREARRANGED SIGNAL LOWERED THE COFFIN.

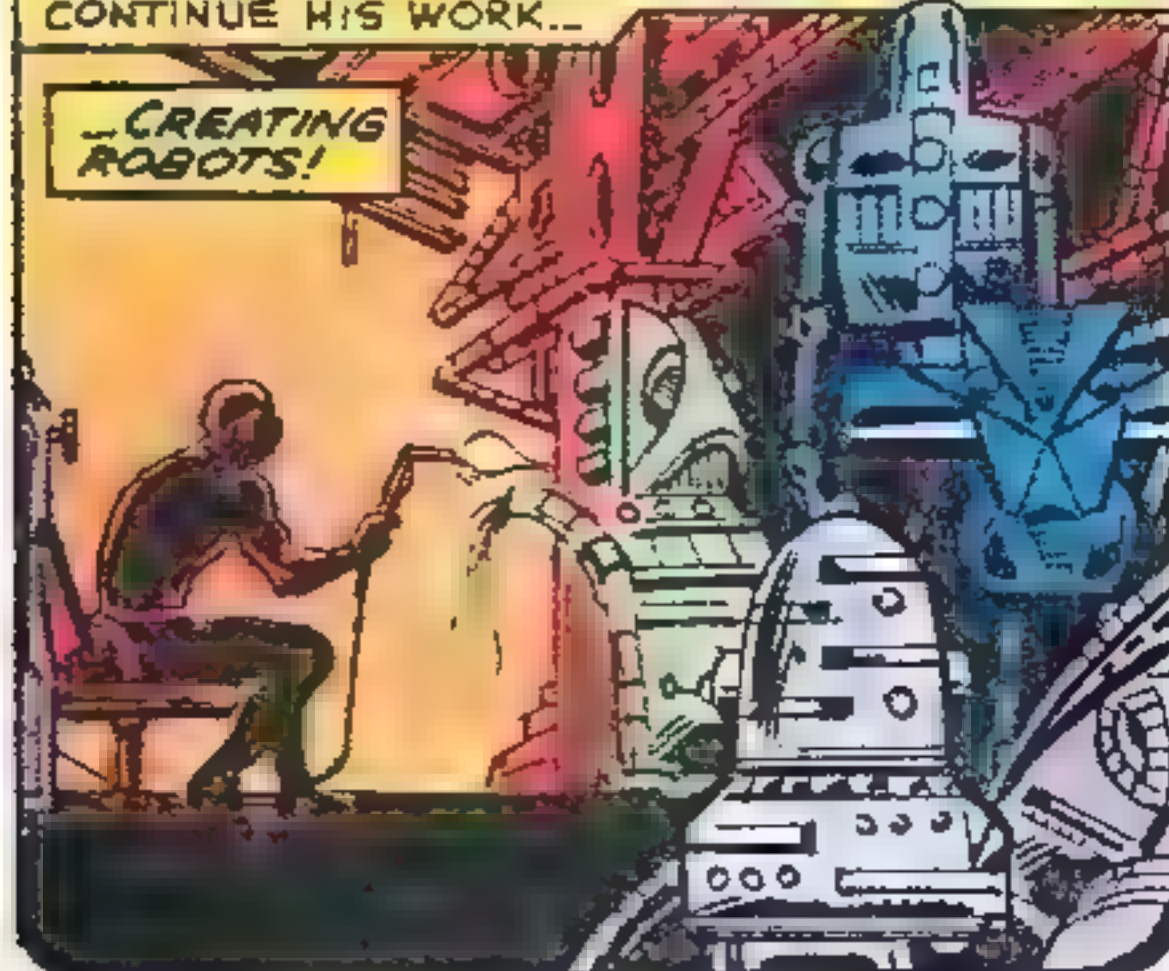
"... AND MACHINERY ALREADY IN PLACE BEGAN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING HIS BRAIN-WAVES INTO A WAITING RECEPTACLE.

"MYSELF!"



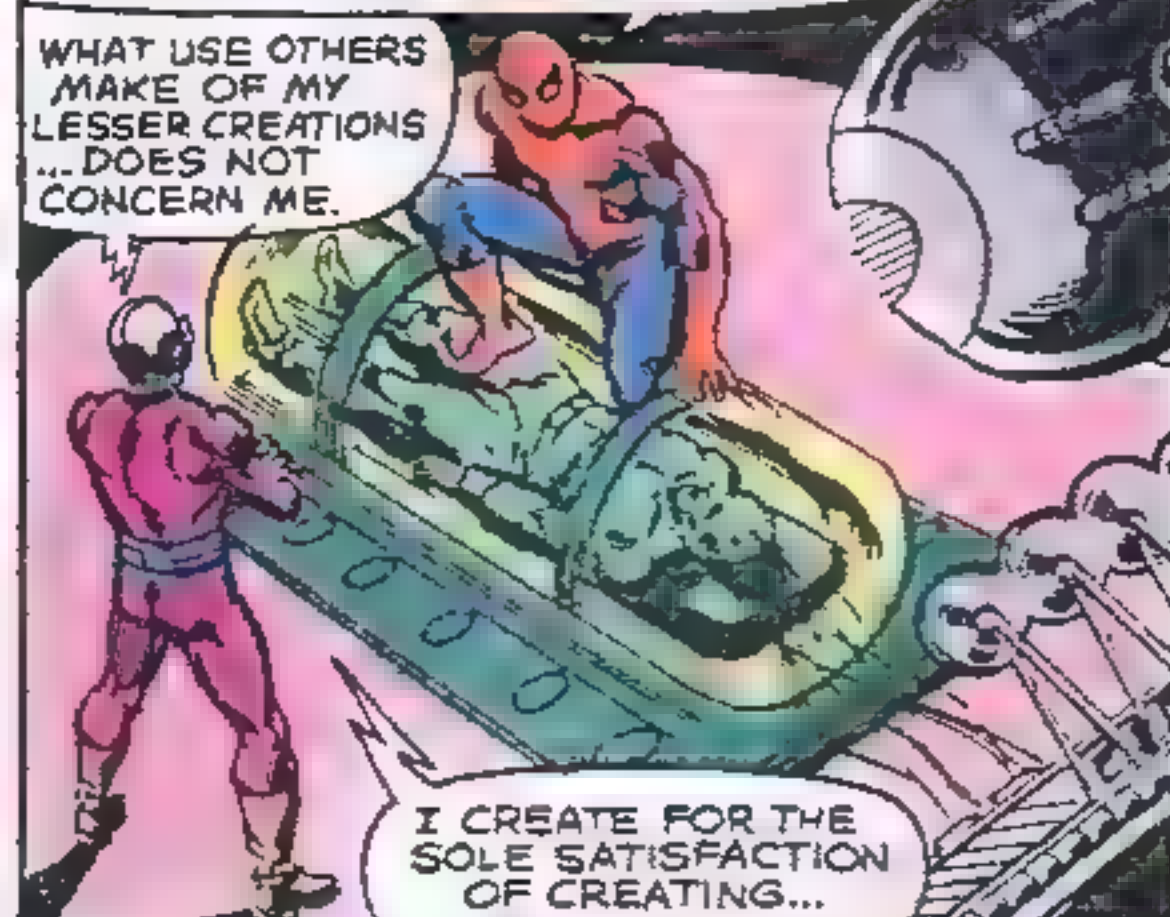
"POSSESSING ALL OF MY CREATOR'S MEMORIES-- ALL OF HIS KNOWLEDGE-- YET NEEDING NEITHER SLEEP NOR SUSTENANCE-- I BEGAN TO CONTINUE HIS WORK...

... CREATING ROBOTS!

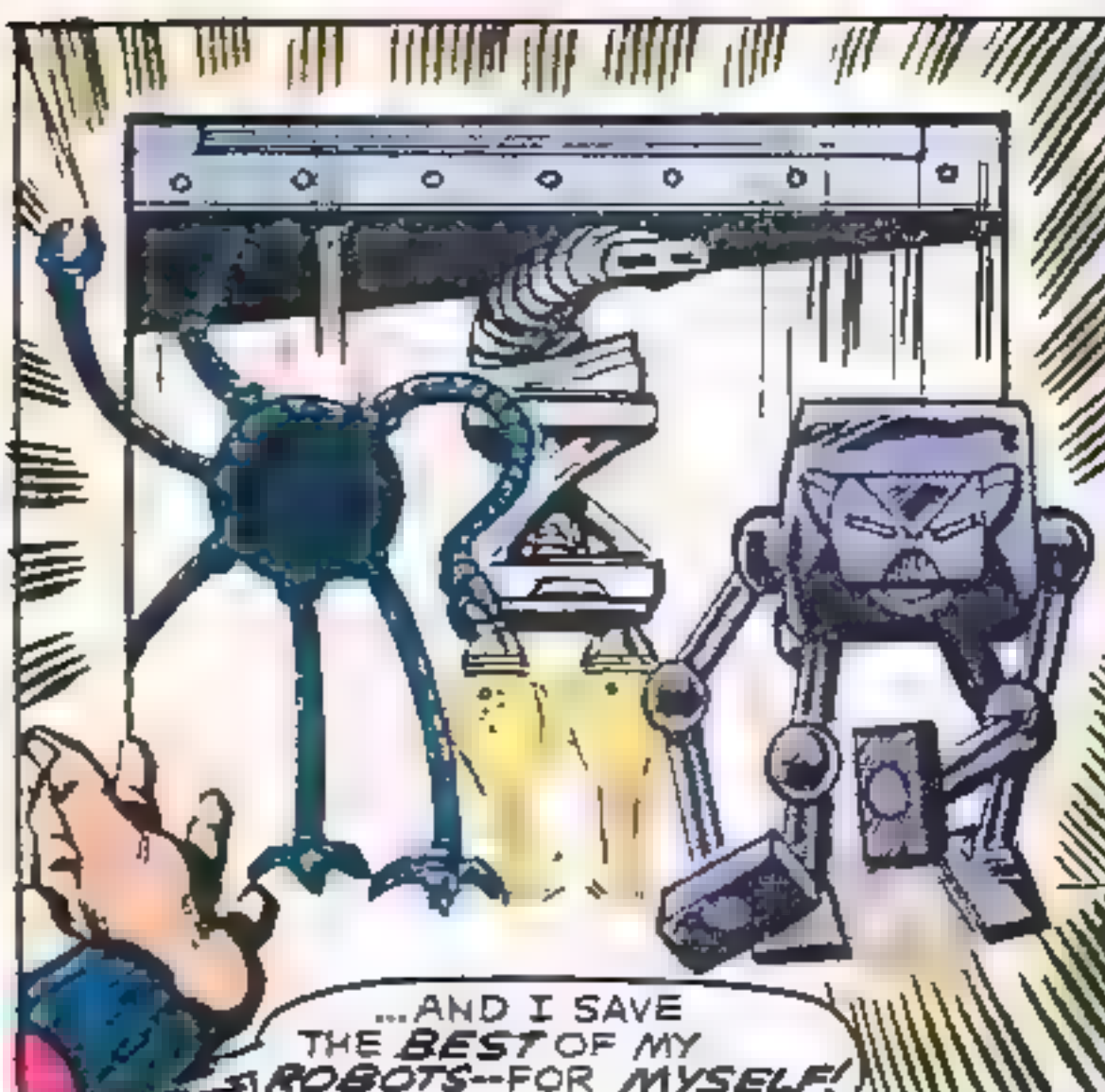


WHICH YOU SOLD TO WHICHEVER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE WILLING TO PAY YOUR PRICE! THAT'S HOW THOSE AGENTS CAUGHT ON TO YOU!

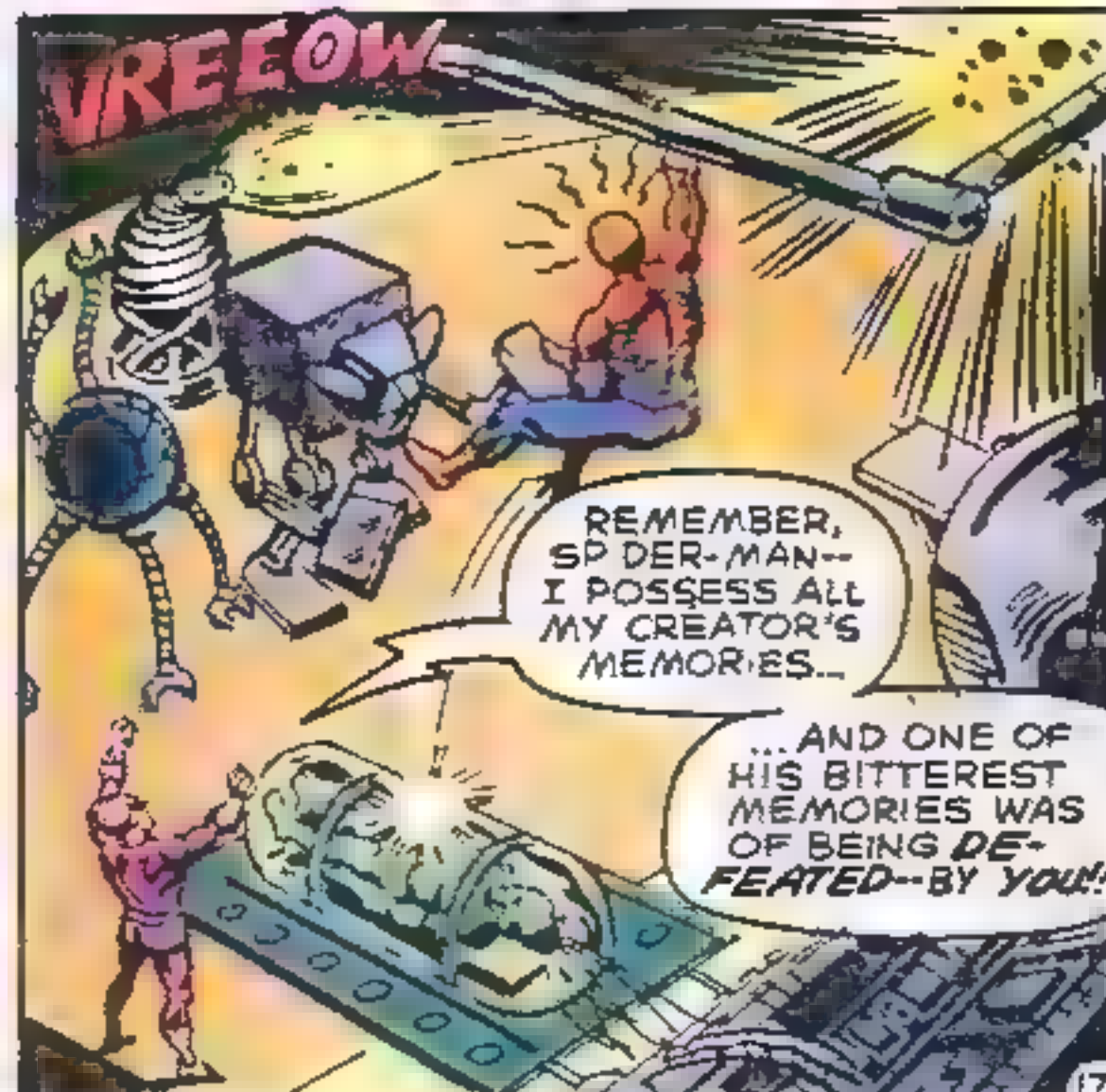
WHAT USE OTHERS MAKE OF MY LESSER CREATIONS ... DOES NOT CONCERN ME.



I CREATE FOR THE SOLE SATISFACTION OF CREATING...

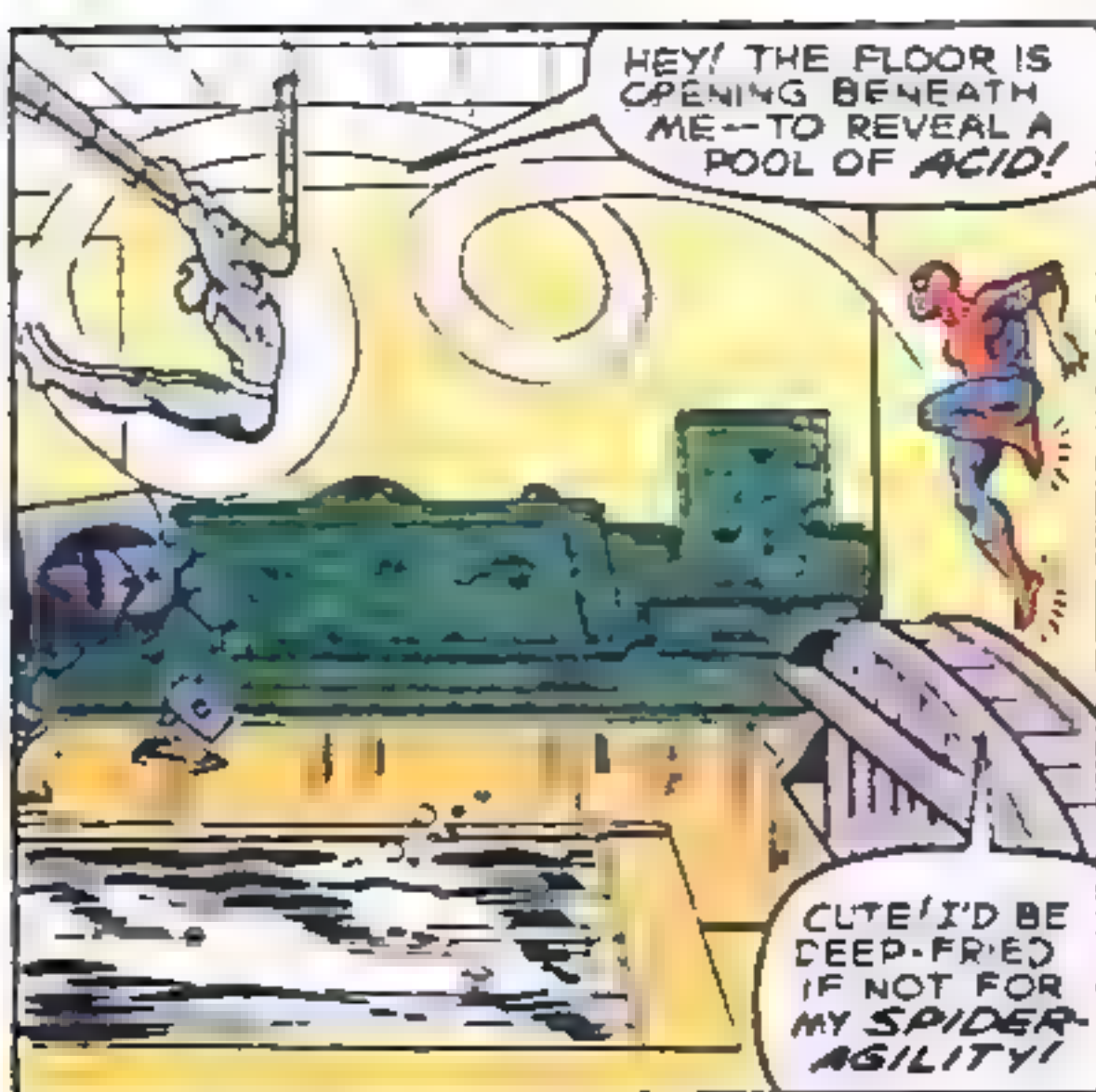


... AND I SAVE THE BEST OF MY ROBOTS-- FOR MYSELF!



REMEMBER, SPIDER-MAN-- I POSSESS ALL MY CREATOR'S MEMORIES...

... AND ONE OF HIS BITTEREST MEMORIES WAS OF BEING DEFEATED-- BY YOU!



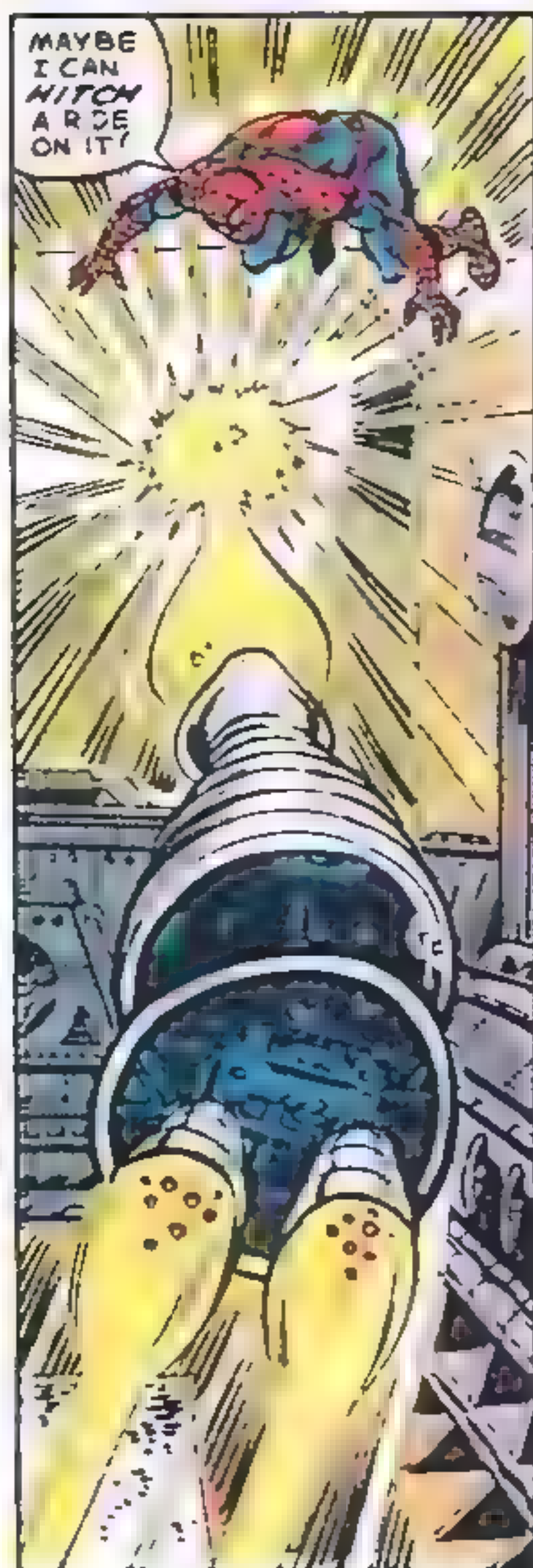
HEY! THE FLOOR IS OPENING BENEATH ME--TO REVEAL A POOL OF ACID!

CUTE! I'D BE DEEP-FRIED IF NOT FOR MY SPIDER-AGILITY!



BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM FOR ME TO MANEUVER DOWN HERE, AND THESE ROBOTS ARE LIGHT YEARS BEYOND STROMM'S ORIGINALS!

IN FACT, THAT SINISTER "SLINKY" --FLIES!



MAYBE I CAN NITCH A RIDE ON IT!



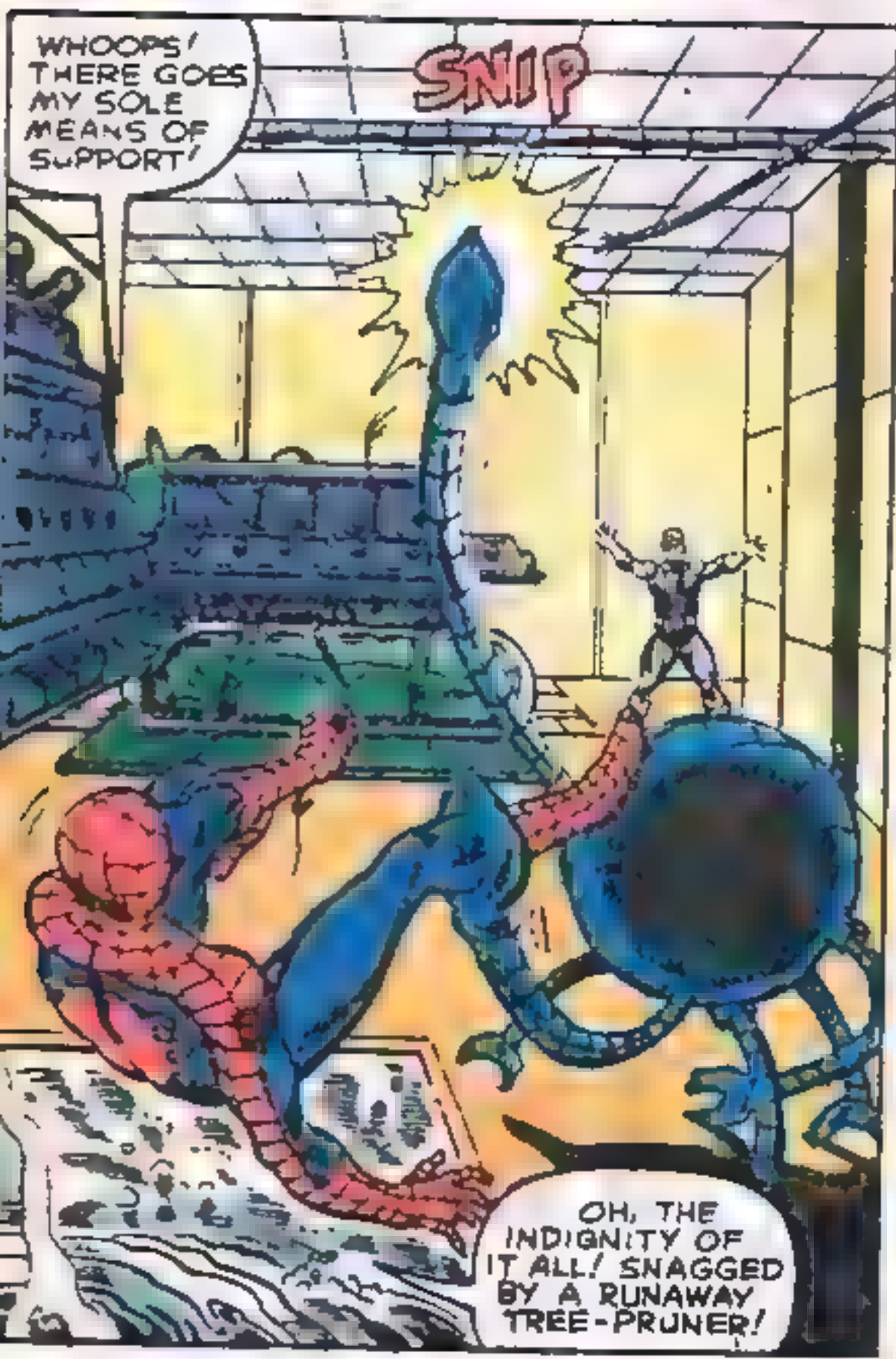
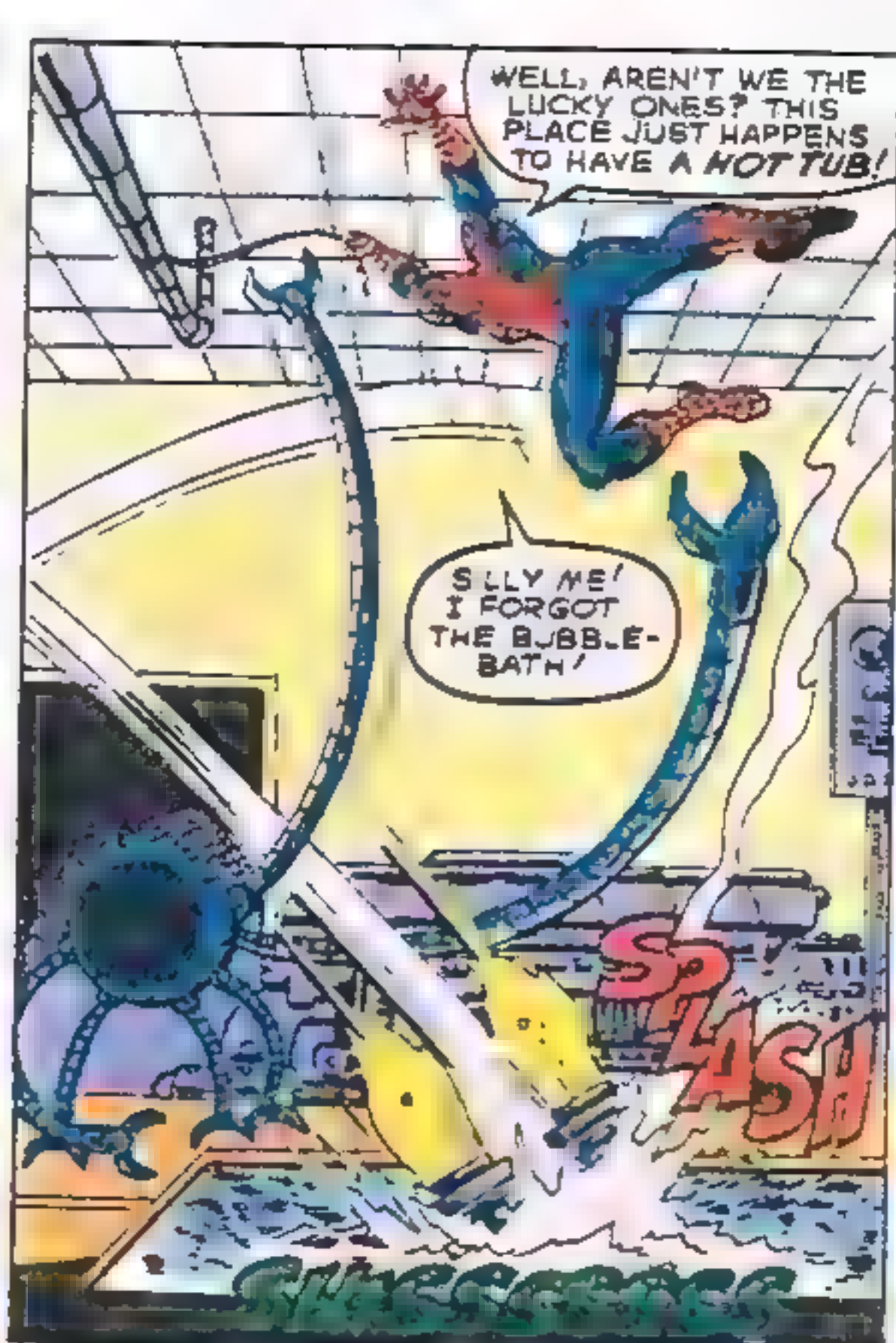
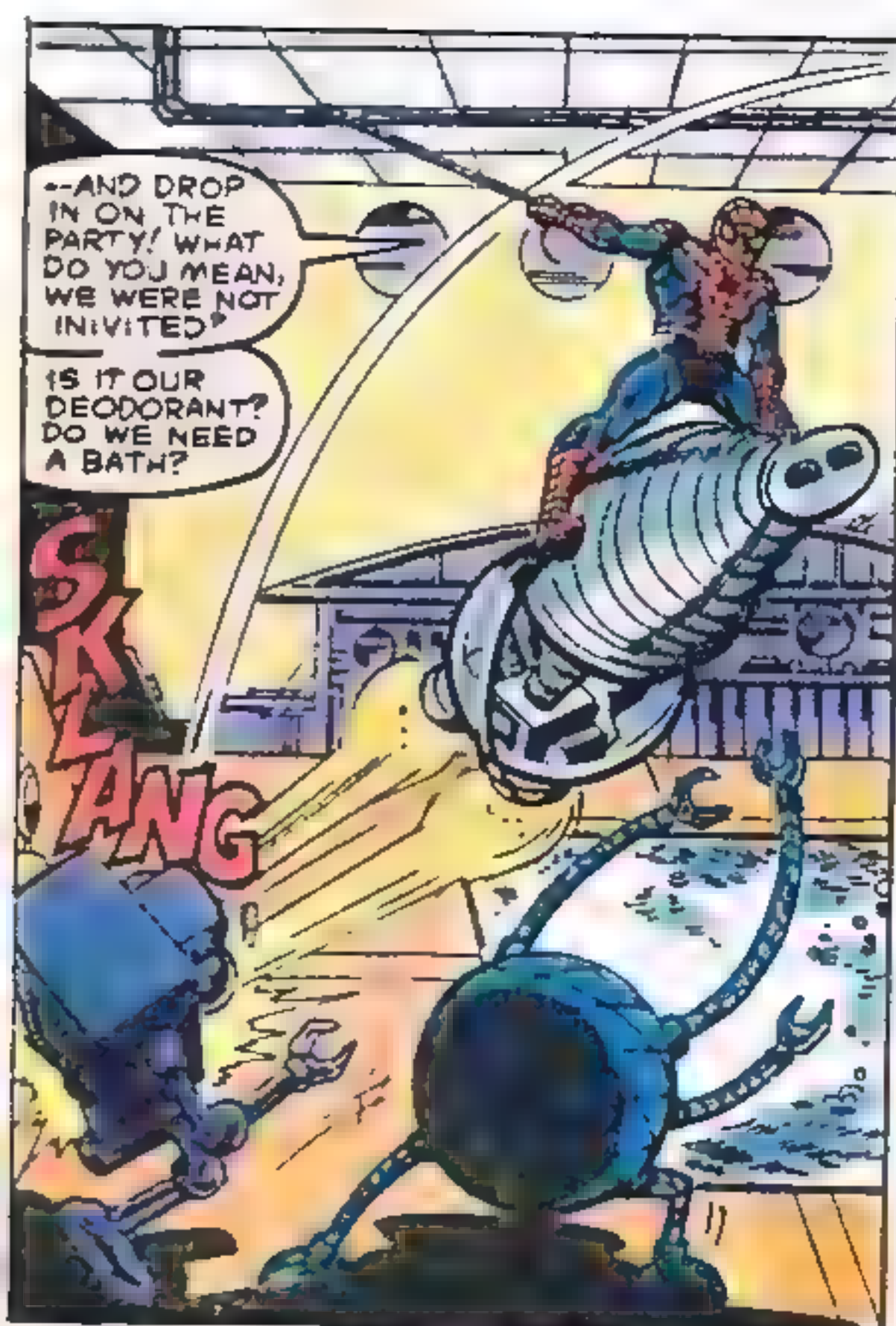
WHEE!! I'M BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN...

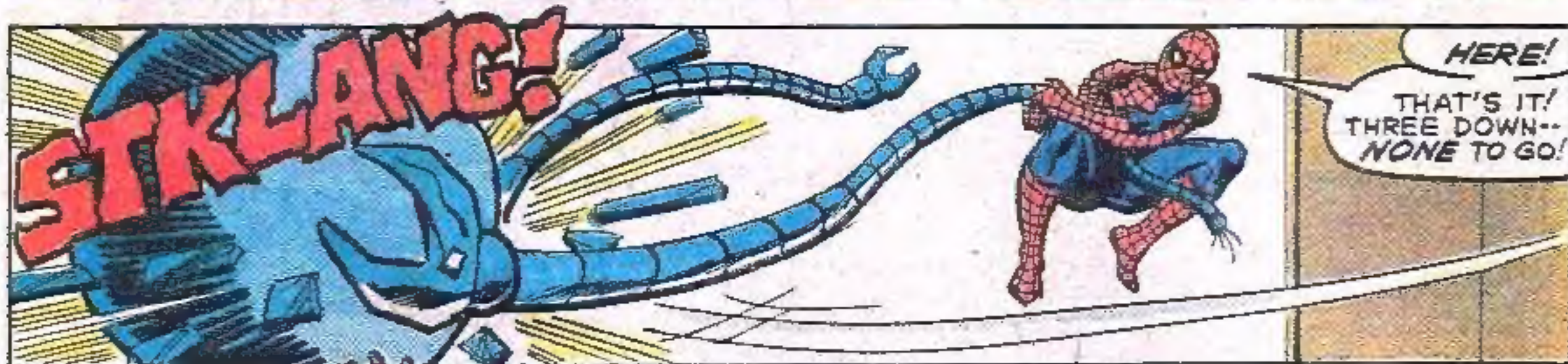
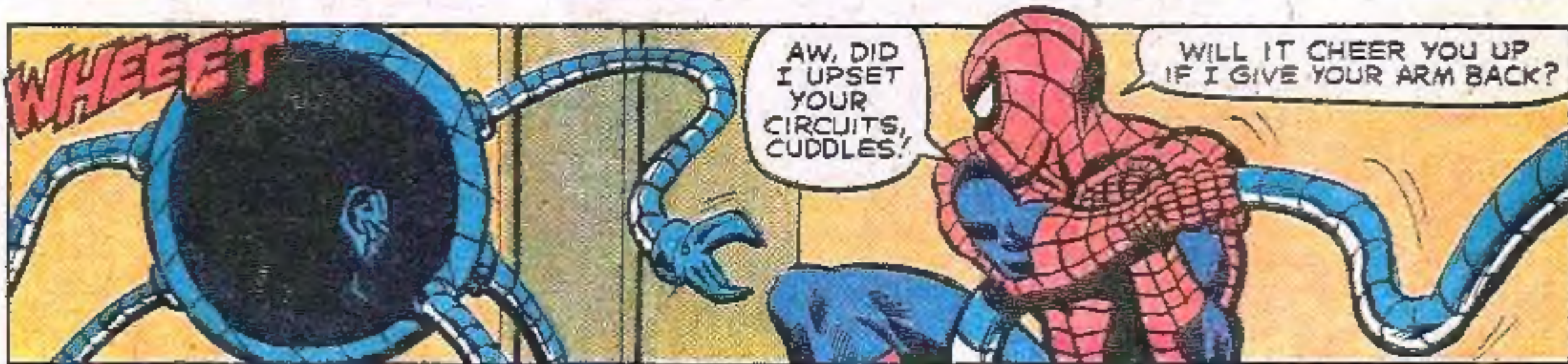
RIDE 'EM, ROBOT! PAW AN' HOSS ARE A 'WAIT,N' BACK AT THE PONDEROSA!

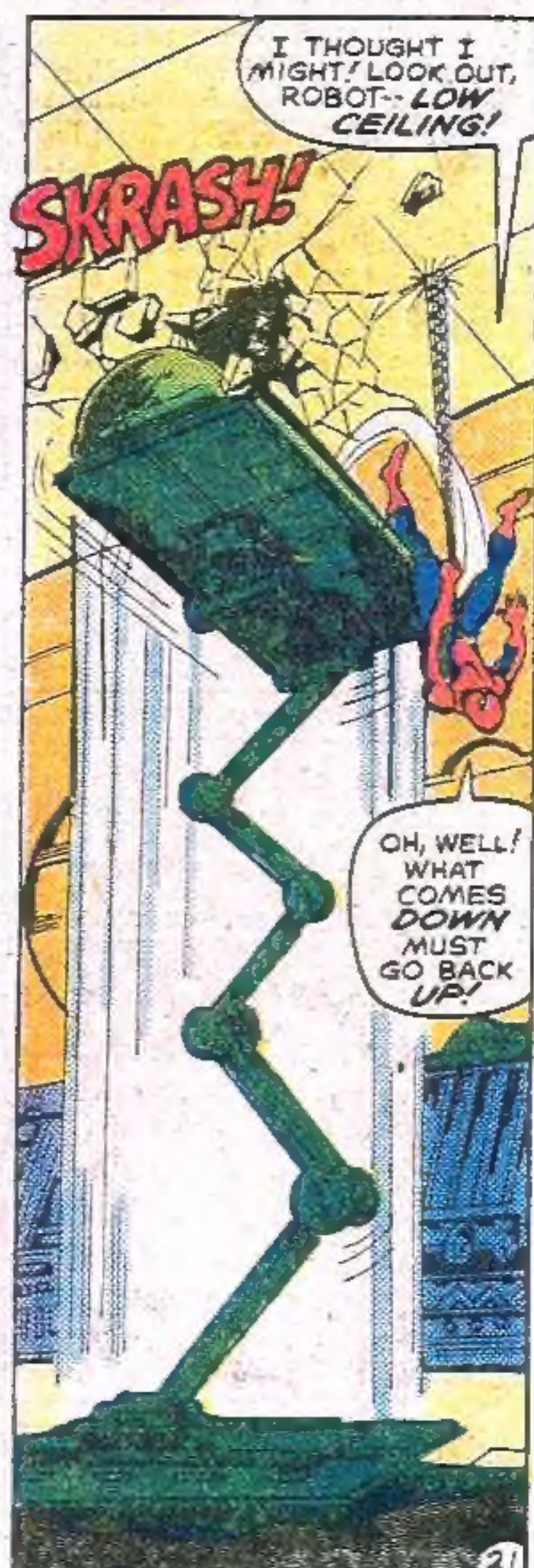
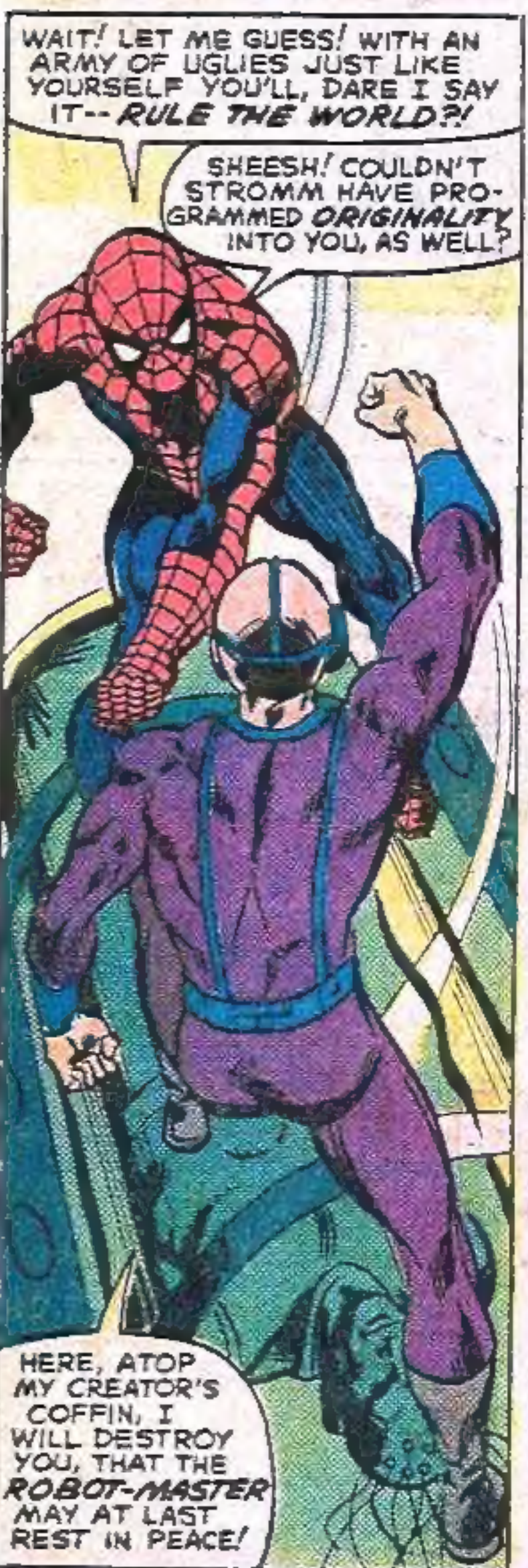


IN FACT, THERE THEY ARE NOW!

SPIN YOUR GYROS, GEARLOOSE! WE'RE GONNA TAKE A SHARP LEFT TURN HERE--









WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHO WAS THAT ATOP THE COFFIN THAT JUST SMASHED THROUGH HERE!

PROFESSOR STROMM'S ROBOT DOUBLE!



LET'S SEE HOW HE FARED AFTER SMASHING HIS HEAD THROUGH THE CRYPT'S STEEL CEILING!

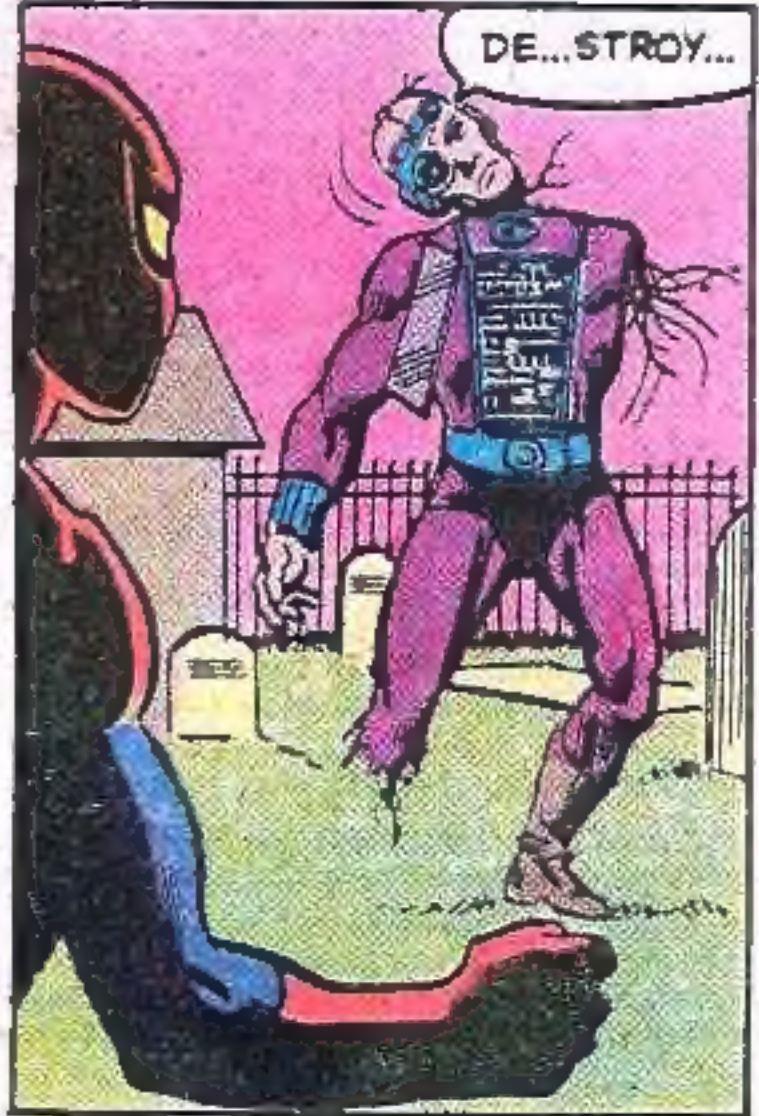
NOT TOO WELL, I'D SAY!

SKREEK! WILL DESTROY... SKREEK! DESTROY...



LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR LAST LEGS--ER, LEG--ROBOT!

WILL DESTROY... SHREEK! DESTROY...



DE...STROY...



I DON'T THINK SO, ROBOT-MASTER!

YOUR DESTROYING DAYS--



--ARE OVER!

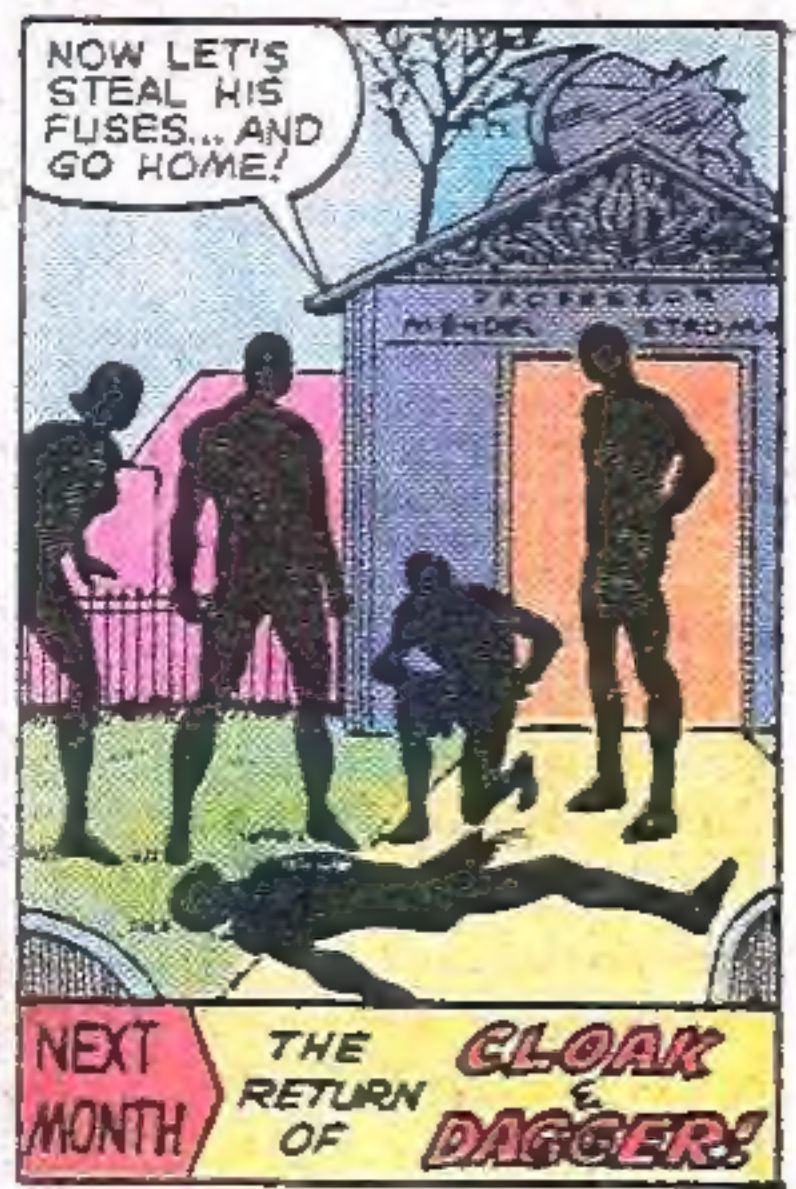
SKLANG!



PROFESSOR STROMM
Died Again

THWIP

A FITTING EPIGRAPH.



NOW LET'S STEAL HIS FUSES... AND GO HOME!

NEXT MONTH

THE RETURN OF

CLOAK & DAGGER!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Molten Man still alive? I love it. But, then, I hate it, too. Yes, I have mixed feelings about SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63. Molten Man was always one of my very favorite Spidey villains. But here's the disappointing part: He died, or at least he was supposed to have died, in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #173. That issue was one of the best issues of that title to date. It was so dramatic. All told, I'm glad he's still around, and I do hope he returns soon with some other old Spider-foes like the Shocker, Mirage, the Green Goblin, the Rhino and the Kangaroo.

I'm also glad that you showed a little of Harry, Liz, Flash and Sha Shan. Now how about getting Pete back together with Mary Jane? They were a great couple. Let's see this soon, huh?

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

We hope you found the Molten Man's resurrection as dramatic as his "death," Mark. It was a fun story, not only in that Spidey re-encountered a vintage villain, but also, as you point out, in that some old friends were reintroduced, too.

There are so many changes beginning to take place in Peter Parker's life that we're not sure who he'll be meeting in the coming months...but, you can be assured that you haven't seen the last of good old Flash, Sha Shan, Liz, Harry or the ever-lovable Mary Jane Watson.

Dear Tom,

Do my eyes deceive me as I read SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63? What's this your creative team seems to be saying? That New Jersey is a nice place to live? A place where neighbors band together to help one another? New Jersey?!

Boy, you guys sure know how to shatter preconceptions. It is upsetting to one's equilibrium when standard wisdom that has served popular fiction for years and years is violated. Next you'll be giving us garbage like there is an honest politician, or that some villains that are killed actually stay dead!

By the way, thanks for *not* having Harry Osborn turn into the Green Goblin this ish.

T.M. Maple
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

You're welcome.

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

No, no...a thousand times no! Please have Harry Osborn, Liz Allen, Flash Thompson and Sha Shan appear in every issue of the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! I hope and pray that I don't have to wait another year or two to see these wonderful people again! By the way, are Flash and Sha Shan married?

The Molten Man is my favorite Spider-Villain. I was sorry to see him go in one issue. I would like to see some more sagas a la Spidey's epic battle with Doc Ock as the Master Planner, or his go-rounds with the Green Goblin.

The cover on SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63 was incredible. It reminded me of the great Lee/Ditko days.

I usually read only AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but the return of Liz and Harry was too good to miss.

Glen Goldfin
2 Brookville Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Every issue of SPECTACULAR is too good to miss, Glen! And now, a few words about SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN #64...

Dear Marvel,

In my opinion, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64 was the best comic you guys have put out this month. I've got to congratulate whoever it was who came up with the idea of Cloak & Dagger. Their

origin, if not totally realistic, was definitely hard-hitting enough for me to accept the sorrowful tale. Leaving out their actual transformations was a smart move; it would have laden down a simple story far too heavily. As for the pair themselves, both Cloak, with his mysterious cape, and Dagger, with her knife-outlined outfit and eye ornament, are fresh and exciting characters with unlimited potential as Marvel hero/villains.

Stuart Gross
312 Lexington Drive
River Edge, NJ

To the Stylists,

I cannot put into words how much I liked SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64. The art team of Hannigan and Mooney far surpassed anything of which I thought either gentleman was capable. It was a cross between Ditko and Steranko, a cartoon/real universe reminiscent of Marvel in the mid-1960's. In other words, I liked it!

Oh, Mantlo did a good job, too.

Dennis Pefilli
306 Terry Road
Smithtown, NY 11787

OOPS! Ye editor must confess to a major goof in the credits of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64. The inker was *not* Gentleman Jim Mooney, as I erroneously claimed, but artist-in-his-own-right (and Editor, too) amiable AL MILGROM who deserves his share of the accolades for CLOAK & DAGGER.

Dear Tom and Gangbusters,

After being practically raised on Spider-Man for almost 20 years, I would like to thank you and all concerned for SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64. The mag was absolutely sensational, compelling me to write for the first time. It was a truly relevant and decidedly different tale. Let's see more of CLOAK & DAGGER!

Rick Ruge
6732 Hill Glen Way
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Most assuredly, Rick!

Marvel,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64...WOW!!

James Kennedy
1901 North Andrews #214
West Manors, FL 33311

Bill and Ed,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64 disturbed me a bit. While CLOAK & DAGGER would naturally be enraged, disgusted and infuriated by their treatment at the hands of the mob, I cannot condone their own crimes, and neither should you. Otherwise, it would be an act of sheer irresponsibility to portray them as "heroic."

Think about it.

John Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT 06880

We have — long and seriously — and we promise you that when CLOAK & DAGGER appear again, that issue will be addressed without a single punch pulled.

Hey!

If you need some kind of fan approval to initiate more appearances of CLOAK & DAGGER, you've got it! From this fan, at least.

Kevin Dooley
132 1/4 N. Berendo Street
Los Angeles, CA 90004

NEXT ISSUE: The much-requested long-awaited RETURN OF CLOAK & DAGGER! And, if that isn't enough to get ya to plunk your sixty cents, this sensational saga also features the evil of...SILVERMANE!!